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GUEST LIST

SOME BIG-NAME CELEBS EXPECTED AT TIFF THIS YEAR

{page 19}

TORONTO metro®
Wednesday, August 24, 2011
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▶ John McDonald takes off after hitting a solo home run in a recent game against the Boston Red Sox at the Rogers Centre.

LUCAS OLENIUK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Farewell fan favourite

John McDonald and one-time all-star second baseman Aaron Hill have been shipped to the Arizona Diamondbacks for second baseman Kelly Johnson, Toronto general manager Alex Anthopoulos announced yesterday. **See story, page 33.**

Critter count vaults upward

◗ Up-to-date 'census' puts number of species on planet at 8.7 million ◗ Likely that vast majority of creatures remain unrecorded

Census summer students do not show up on the ocean floor to politely remind mysterious soft-shelled creatures that they haven't been documented yet.

That's why it's difficult to know how many species crawl, squirm and fly among us.

Since a formal system was created in 1758, 1.25 million species have been recorded and entered into the official record. Since then, the best guesses scientists have made about all the ones we've missed, is, oh, anywhere between three million and 100 million. Not very helpful.

But yesterday, a group of scientists from the Census of Marine Life published a study in Biology, a Public Library of Science journal, narrowing the gap a tad and giving the most precise validated estimate yet: 8.7 million, give or take 1.3 million.

Based on the scientists' calculations, 86 per cent of species on land and 91 per cent of those in the sea have not been discovered, described or recorded yet.

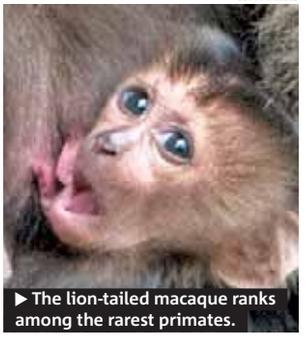
"The water we drink, the air we breathe, the soil we grow crops in, are all maintained by species. It's an infinitesimally complex machine ... with 8.7 million parts."
STUDY CO-AUTHOR BORIS WORM

"I have a world map in my office and I'm looking at it right now," said study co-author Boris Worm, a professor of marine biology at Dalhousie University. "Where are they hiding?"

Worm actually has a pretty good idea: the wet tropics and rare forests of Indonesia, South America and Africa, and the ocean between Japan and Australia, which is known to be species-rich.

Already, Worm said, close to 60,000 of the earth's recorded species are being monitored by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, and 20,000, including the Motagua Spiny-tailed Iguana and the lion-tailed macaque, are classified as threatened. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

GETTY IMAGES



▶ The lion-tailed macaque ranks among the rarest primates.

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Oakville Place

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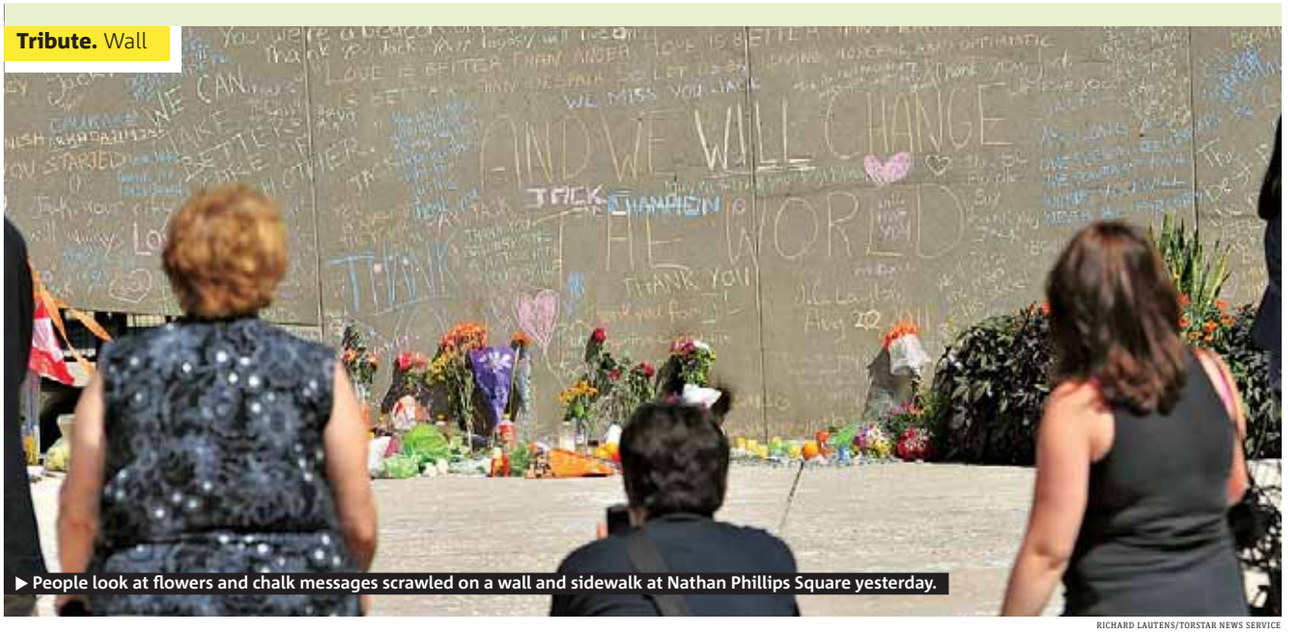
Tribute. Wall



▶ People look at flowers and chalk messages scrawled on a wall and sidewalk at Nathan Phillips Square yesterday.

RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Messages left for Jack

Tributes to Jack Layton abound at Nathan Phillips Square in front of city hall, where Layton was once a member of city council. Boxes of chalk have been left out for people to post messages on the ground and walls around the square. Layton will lie in state this week at Toronto City Hall and the House of Commons in Ottawa.

Ford likely to take nurses this time

Budget committee endorses provincial offer of bedbug nurses ◐ Provision: If funding runs out, jobs will be cut ◐ Move comes a month after mayor rejected two infectious-disease nurses

Coun. Doug Ford signalled yesterday that Mayor Rob Ford will accept a provincial offer to pay for three new public health nurses, even though the mayor rejected an earlier provincial offer of nurses.

The mayor's apparent reversal follows criticism from council foes and allies, from Ontario's health minister, and from thousands of residents — nurses among them — who bombarded councillors with emails.

Rob Ford has not yet expressed his opinion on the province's second offer of three nurses, this time for the city's fight against bedbugs.

But Doug Ford endorsed accepting the nurses at a budget committee meeting, and it's unlikely he would have contradicted his brother's previous position without his approval.

In June the mayor opposed hiring two nurses to work with infectious disease issues among immigrants and the poor, arguing the city would end up paying their salaries eventually.

"We listen. Even though people claim that we don't"

BUDGET CHIEF MIKE DEL GRANDE ON THE CITY LIKELY ACCEPTING THE PROVINCE'S SECOND OFFER OF NURSES

The councillor's motion yesterday said the city should simply eliminate the three bedbug nurses' jobs if provincial funding ever expired. The mayor could have addressed his concern in June with a similar motion, rather than rejecting the nurses outright.

"I think a motion like this would have been probably more helpful," Budget chief Mike Del Grande told reporters.

Dr. David McKeown, the city's chief medical officer of health, said the three nurses are badly needed. The city's understaffed bedbug-battling effort currently relies on employees borrowed from other programs.

Coun. John Filion, chair of the board of health, said he will now attempt to come up with a plan to get council to go back and approve the first offer of nurses.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

1 news

Inside Tripoli's $400-per-night Rixos Hotel that has become a prison for foreign reporters. Scan code for story.

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Archeologists working at the Montreal site of a pre-Confederation parliament unearth relics of the past. Video at metronews.ca

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Giambrone, McQuarrie to wed

We don't know if he proposed to her in a trundling streetcar or after a romantic, candle-lit dinner. What we do know is that Adam Giambrone and Sarah McQuarrie are getting hitched this fall.

Giambrone, a former Toronto councillor, TTC chair and mayoral hopeful who quit after a scandal in last year's municipal election campaign, would only say it's "not a public event" but confirmed he'll be a married man soon. Joe Pantalone, former deputy mayor of Toronto and a friend of Giambrone, said the couple is deeply in love.

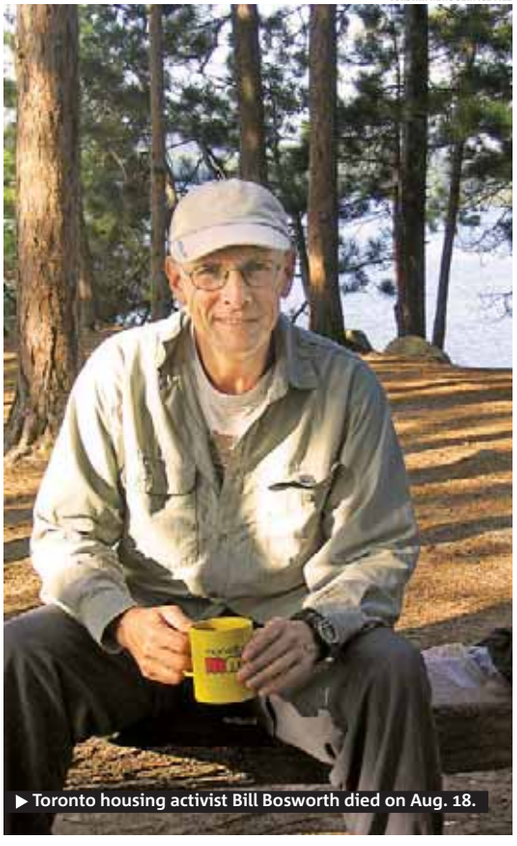
"It's obviously a relationship that has endured and has gone through challenges ... and it shows they belong together," he said.

The greatest challenge occurred 18 months ago, after Giambrone announced his candidacy for mayor. The Toronto Star revealed he had an intimate relationship with university student Kristen Lucas and had suggested to her in a text message that McQuarrie, his live-in partner for the last five years, was in his life for "political" reasons.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Homelessness activist championed 'housing first'

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE



▶ Toronto housing activist Bill Bosworth died on Aug. 18.

'Homes not hostels' rallying cry changed government policy

As an outreach worker at Toronto's Fred Victor Mission in the late 1970s, Bill Bosworth was determined to bring dignity to the lives of the homeless men who took shelter in the gritty downtown hostel.

His belief that people need homes — not hostels — to help rebuild their lives helped change the way governments and institutions viewed homelessness.

A 77-unit building at 90 Shuter St. he helped build as founder of the Homes First Society in 1984 was the first government-supported transitional housing project in Canada for low-income single people.

Before that, only housing for families and seniors received public money.

Today, hundreds, perhaps thousands, of formerly homeless Canadians are thriving due to Bosworth's crusading work, housing officials say.

Bosworth died unexpectedly due to cardiac arrest on August 18. He was 63.

"Bill changed the language we used in social services from doing things for people to doing things with them."
FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE LIZ GREAVES

"Bill really was a game-changer," said co-op housing activist Joy Connelly who first met Bosworth in the early 1980s. "He was one of the first people to find a third way to house homeless people — not squalid rooming houses, and not group homes."

"He understood that if you stabilize a person's housing, you change everything about their lives. And he helped make that happen through a unique mixture of passion and pragmatism," said friend and colleague Liz Greaves, who was working with homeless women when she met Bosworth.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Pool fall sends girl to hospital

A two-year-old girl is in serious condition after falling in her family pool in Milton. Police and paramedics were called to a Cabot Trail residence yesterday afternoon after the toddler had been pulled from the pool by a family member. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Man charged in Pickering homicide

A man has been charged in connection with a homicide in Pickering last month. Police say 22-year-old Tyson Henry of Pickering died of a stab wound shortly after midnight on July 2 following an argument with another man. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Brampton man accused of immigration fraud

A Brampton man is facing charges on 16 counts of fraud for passing himself off as an immigration officer who could get prospective migrants legal status in Canada.

A man approached patrons in Toronto coffee shops between February 2009 and November 2010, claiming to be an officer with the Canada Border Services Agency. He promised individuals full immigration status, said Toronto police Const. Tony Vella.

At least 10 people paid the accused man between $1,800 and $3,900 in cash for his services.

When they confronted him for failing to deliver his promises, he threatened them with deportation.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

▶Toronto police Const. Tony Vella

The alleged victims included members of various ethnic communities, Vella said. The Toronto Strategic Partnership team, a multi-law-enforcement agency established in 2009 to probe fraudulent immigration operations, launched an investigation after complainants came forward.

Albino Irgolino, 43, also known as Al Guiliani, was arrested in Mississauga Monday and charged with eight counts each of fraud under $5,000 and impersonating a peace officer.

Police believe there are more victims. Anyone with information is asked to contact investigators at 416-808-7300.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Family of twister victim raises questions about his death

Brenda Turcotte Laberge said yesterday she wants to know why her 61-year-old husband, a salt-mine worker, was the only one killed in the storm that battered Goderich with 280 km/h winds. Normand Laberge died on the job at the Sifto salt mine, but the company said other employees who were working at the time survived. So far, the family hasn't received "proper answers" from the company or town officials, Turcotte Laberge said from her home in Lucknow, Ont. The couple had been together 14 years and married for two. THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ An OPP officer in Goderich.

'Citizen of the year' killed in crash

Family and friends in her hometown of Stouffville, north of Toronto, remember Lindsey Sanders' "infectious laugh, killer smile, beautiful voice and love of animals." The 21-year-old University of Guelph student, who received the citizen of the year award in 2010, was hit by a truck and killed while riding her bike on a country road on Aug. 18. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Speed dating 'gong'-ho on men in uniform

Charity event asks: Is it the guy's uniform or his job?

PHOEBE HO
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Firefighters, police officers, paramedics and pilots have one thing in common: They're all woman magnets.

At least that's what FastLife, a speed-dating company, will be taking to the test as they prepare the Men in Uniform charity speed-dating event this Thursday.

"We do know that woman are naturally drawn to men in uniform," said Jay Wheatley, a FastLife representative and host of the event. "We try to do these different types of events to really find out what it is that people are drawn to. Is it the uniform, the job or both?"

Participants will have exactly eight minutes to make an impression with each date that evening. If both parties tick off the "Yes" box, a match is made, and they will have a chance to go on a real date.

Singletons have to ask: What's with eight-minute rule?

"Talking to somebody for five minutes, you're just beyond an introduction, so you don't get to know someone. And there's usually a natural kind of pause at about nine minutes," said Wheatley. "Eight minutes is really the ideal amount of time to have an interaction."

While FastLife has held various themed speed-dating events before, Men in Uniform is a first, and Wheatley predicts it will be popular.

"Everybody that comes out to our events is on the same boat," she said. "For a lot of people, meeting someone in a bar is just not much of an option, the rate of success is not that high. At our events, you're going to meet at least 10 or more single people."

Meet your match

- Admission for women aged 25 to 35 is $79.95.
- Free admission for men aged 27 to 37 who bring their uniforms.
- Portion of proceeds go to Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation.
- Held at Libra Lounge on Aug. 25 at 7:30 p.m.
- For more, visit fastlife.ca/speed-dating-singles-events.

FASTLIFE.CA

▶ FastLife host Melanie Munroe gets ready to bang her gong to signify the end of a date at a recent speed-dating event.

Shania won't have to face alleged stalker

A judge will allow music superstar Shania Twain to appear by video link at the trial of alleged stalker Dr. John Palumbo, denying a defence bid that she show up in person.

The trial is set for Sept. 29, 30 and Oct. 18 in Toronto. It's not yet known which day Twain will testify, said Gary Barnes, an Ottawa lawyer representing Palumbo.

Barnes refused further comment.

Palumbo, 51, a general practitioner, did not react either as he was led from court in handcuffs.

Justice Richard Schneider said having the celebrity testify by video would not contravene "the principle of fundamental justice," allowing it is "less desirable" than having her appear in person.

Palumbo, who once made a six-figure salary and drove a Lamborghini as an Ottawa doctor, has been in jail since March 27 after he was arrested at the Juno Awards.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CHARLES SYKES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Shania Twain

Driver, 23, crashes Jetta into highrise

A man will appear in court next month to face dangerous and impaired driving charges after a car crashed into an apartment building in Markham.

Police say a 2000 Volkswagen Jetta hit the building on Clark Avenue at 2:45 a.m. last Saturday.

A 58-year-old man sustained serious injuries while his 29-year-old son had minor injuries.

Police say the suspect fled the scene but turned himself in on Monday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Tremor felt far and wide

- People scurried onto city streets
- Some flights were put on hold, while trains ran at slower speeds

One of the strongest earthquakes ever recorded on the East Coast of the United States shook buildings and rattled nerves on Tuesday and forced the evacuations of parts of the Capitol, White House and Pentagon.

There were no immediate reports of deaths, but Washington fire officials said there were some injuries. The U.S. Geological Survey said the quake registered magnitude 5.8 and was centred about 64 kilometres northwest of Richmond, Va.

Two nuclear reactors at the North Anna Power Station were automatically taken off line by safety systems, said the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

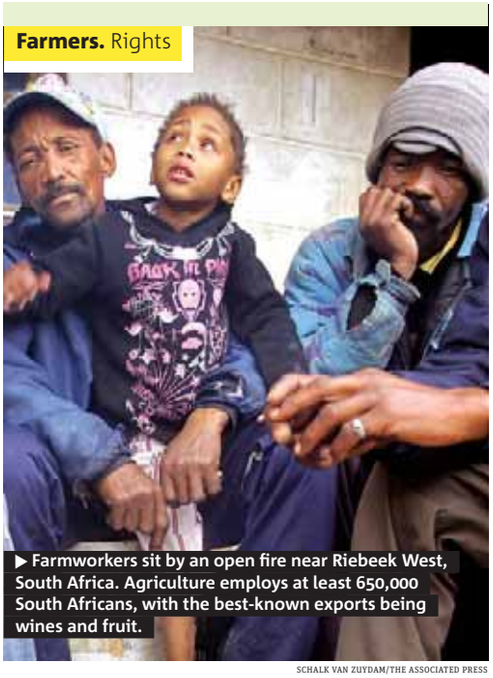
With the 10th anniversary of Sept. 11 approaching, fears were triggered of something more sinister than a natural disaster.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shaky ground

- **People from across central** and eastern Canada, including those in Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa reported feeling effects such as rumbling desks and swaying buildings.
- **More than 12 million** people live close enough to the quake's epicentre to have felt shaking, according to a geological survey.

Farmers. Rights



▶ Farmworkers sit by an open fire near Riebeek West, South Africa. Agriculture employs at least 650,000 South Africans, with the best-known exports being wines and fruit.

SCHALK VAN ZUYDAM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pressure to stop abuse

Slum housing and poor health conditions endured by South African farmworkers amount to human rights abuses, Human Rights Watch reports. It is calling on suppliers to improve working conditions.

Winehouse death remains a mystery

STEFFEN SCHMIDT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Amy Winehouse

Amy Winehouse had no illegal drugs in her system when she died, and it is still unclear what killed the singer, her family said yesterday.

The family said that toxicology tests showed "alcohol was present" in the singer's body. It has not been determined if it contributed to her death.

The 27-year-old soul diva, who had battled drug and alcohol addiction for years, was found dead in her London home on July 23.

A statement released by spokesman Chris Goodman said the family is awaiting the outcome of an inquest that is due to begin in October.

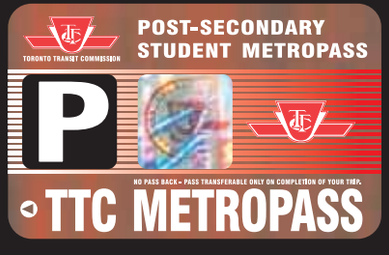
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Travel warning for Trinidad

The Foreign Affairs Department is advising Canadians to "exercise a high degree of caution" in Trinidad and Tobago, where a limited state of emergency has been declared to deal with a spike in violent crime.

Police have increased powers to carry out searches and make arrests. An overnight curfew is in effect in the capital Port-of-Spain, the city of San Fernando and other communities.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Obama rides crest of Libyan euphoria

The dramatic advance of Libyan rebels over the forces of longtime strongman Moammar Gadhafi offers vindication, at least for now, for President Barack Obama's decision to refrain from using U.S. troops on Libyan soil and to let NATO take the lead. But confusion yesterday over the extent of rebel progress illustrated the uncertain path to stability and the hazards that still face the White House.

How Libya moves away from the current turmoil will present the next challenge for Obama and could determine how the public views not only his foreign policy, but also in some measure the U.S. economy as well.

Underscoring the volatility, Gadhafi loyalists struck back at the rebels yesterday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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SERGEY PONOMAREV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Libyans deface the portrait of Moammar Gadhafi inside a hotel in Tripoli yesterday.

‘Explosion of joy’: Rebel

◗ Fighters ransack Libya’s seat of power ◗ Gadhafi nowhere to be seen

Hundreds of Libyan rebels blasted through the green gates of Moammar Gadhafi’s Bab al-Aziziya compound in Tripoli yesterday after five hours of intense fighting around it. They beat and killed some of those who defended it, fired celebratory shots in the air and hauled off crates of weapons and trucks with guns mounted on the back.

The storming of the sprawling compound in the capital, long the nexus of Gadhafi’s power, marked the effective collapse of his 42-year-old regime, even though pockets of resistance are likely to persist around the country for some time. It was only Sunday night that the rebels surprised everyone with their lightning-fast advance into Tripoli, quickly capturing large parts of the city of two million.

“We’re looking for Gadhafi now. We have to find him now,” said Sohaib Nefati, a 29-year-old rebel sitting against a wall with a Kalashnikov rifle. Gadhafi’s whereabouts were still unknown.

One fighter climbed atop the iconic statue of a huge golden fist clenching a model of an American warplane and shot his machine-gun in the air in celebration. The statue stands outside a building that was once Gadhafi’s home.

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Cuba 89.9 ¢/min	Pakistan 5.9 ¢/min	U.K. 2.9 ¢/min
El Salvador 9.9 ¢/min	Philippines 11.9 ¢/min	Vietnam 4.9 ¢/min
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Strauss-Kahn a free man

Sexual assault allegation was 'a nightmare' for former IMF leader and his family Says he looks forward to resuming a normal life

MARY ALTAFFER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Former International Monetary Fund leader Dominique Strauss-Kahn, centre, leaves State Supreme Court in Manhattan with his wife, Anne Sinclair, and attorney Benjamin Brafman after a hearing yesterday.

A judge ended the sexual assault case against Dominique Strauss-Kahn yesterday at the request of prosecutors, who said the hotel maid who accused the former International Monetary Fund chief couldn't be trusted.

Though evidence showed Strauss-Kahn had a sexual encounter with Nafissatou Diallo in his hotel suite more than three months ago, prosecutors said the accuser was not credible because of lies she has told, including an earlier false rape claim.

State Supreme Court Justice Michael Obus said he would dismiss the case, but there was one more legal twist to get through: He first wanted an appeals court to hear a request from Diallo's attorneys to keep the case alive by appointing a special prosecutor.

The criminal case ended about two hours later, when the higher court agreed with Obus that there was no legal basis for removing the district attorney from the case. The case drew global attention and left both the accuser and the accused, a one-time potential candidate for the French presidency, with tattered reputations.

Diallo claimed that the 62-year-old diplomat forced her to perform oral sex when she arrived to clean his luxury suite May 14.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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PHOTO COURTESY OF AKSHAY KOTHARI

▶ Nine-million-dollar smile: Akshay Kothari attended Facebook class and founded Pulse.com, a news aggregator that now has five million users.

Think rich with Facebook class

Mark Zuckerberg who? Stanford University students learn how to create equally successful biz plans

ELISABETH BRAW
LONDON@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON, ENGLAND

The company founded and run by Evan Reas has 10 employees and $6 million in investor funding. Reas's business concept is simple: his website, lal.com, allows college students to flirt online. And U.S. college students apparently don't get to flirt enough in real life — thousands have signed up.

Reas himself is still just 26. He's one of the super-entrepreneurs trained at Stanford University's "Facebook class."

"The class was extremely practical," says Reas.

"(Professor B.J. Fogg) taught us the theory of entrepreneurship, but expected us to use it in the real world and try it out with small experiments to attempt to do it ourselves," says Reas.

"He wanted us to talk to users and to get real data ourselves rather than just reading it in a book."

The class, launched by Fogg and Dave McClure in 2007, hasn't just spawned Reas and lal.com. In fact, its main result is a new generation of companies that make money on Facebook apps. The first-year students designed apps that attracted 16 million users.

"The concept of this class had never been tried before," explains Professor Fogg. "The students built real things and put them out in the world. I told them to drop out if they didn't like challenges."

Their seminar was, in essence, a boot camp for future Silicon Valley stars. Many are now millionaires, at least on paper.

Akshay Kothari, 25, took the class last year and founded Pulse.me, an app that allows users to create a screen mosaic of their favourite news sites.

Since launching 14 months ago, Pulse has gained million users, $10 million in funding and an endorsement from Steve Jobs.

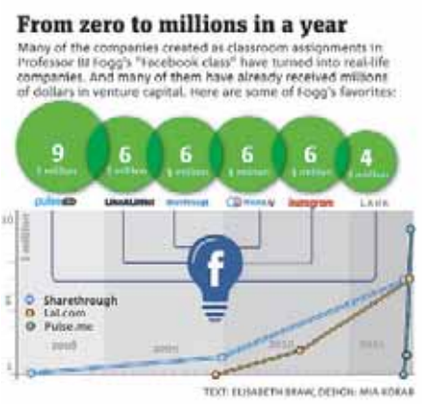
> **"You should be able to create a business idea and launch it within 40 minutes."**
> PROF. B.J. FOGG,

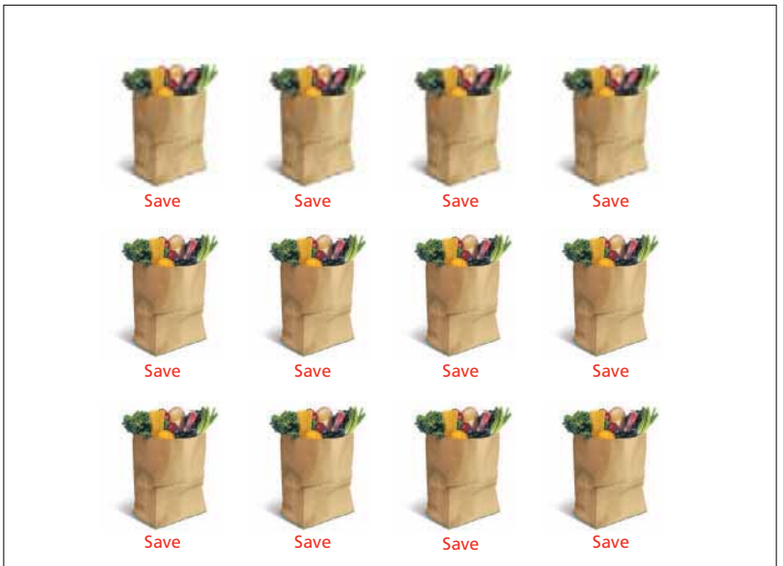
Fogg says starting a successful company is actually fairly simple. "The biggest mistake companies make is to overthink." he says.

"They make their products too complicated, add way too many features, and delay launching for fear of failure. Successful apps are simple, social and fun."

Creative payoff

- Professor BJ Fogg directs Stanford's Persuasive Technology Lab. The prof changes the class each year. This year, he taught students how to use technology to reduce people's stress.
- Several weeks after the 2007 Facebook class ended, the students' Facebook apps had 24 million users.
- Many of the students have sold their ideas to existing companies or started companies featuring their apps.


From zero to millions in a year
Many of the companies created as classroom assignments in Professor BJ Fogg's "Facebook class" have turned into real-life companies. And many of them have already received millions of dollars in venture capital. Here are some of Fogg's favorites:
9
6
6
6
6
4
Sharethrough
Lal.com
Pulse.me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News in brief

Tag — you're not it anymore

FACEBOOK FRIENDS. Facebook will now let you decide whether friends can attach your name to a photo before it's posted.

The change won't affect friends adding photos of you, only whether your name is attached to it.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Goodlife gets big strife

FITNESS. Goodlife Fitness Centres has paid a $300,000 penalty for using automated systems to call members without permission.

The CRTC said that 60 calls had been made from May to December 2010.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

KFC arrives in East Africa

CHICKEN. Good news for chicken lovers: KFC just opened its first restaurant in Kenya.

KFC sits in a new wing of a Nairobi mall and is the first U.S. fast food outlet in East Africa's most developed economy.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lois lane actress arrested at protest

50 During a peaceful protest Saturday, 50 environmental activists were arrested and spent two nights in jail.

Canadian actress Margot Kidder was among the latest slate of environmentalists to be arrested outside the White House yesterday, handcuffed and sent to jail on the fourth day of a two-week civil disobedience campaign against TransCanada's Keystone XL pipeline.

Kidder, born in Yellowknife but now living in Montana as an American citizen, was arrested alongside fellow Canadian actress Tantoo Cardinal by U.S. Park Police for refusing to vacate a White House sidewalk.

U.S. President Barack Obama will decide by the end of the year whether to allow Calgary-based TransCanada to build the $7-billion US pipeline. It would transport millions of barrels of Alberta oilsands crude a week through the U.S. and to Gulf Coast refineries.

"We're the first state the pipeline goes through," Kidder, 62, best known for playing Lois Lane in four Superman movies, said before her arrest.

She marched from Lafayette Square north of the White House to the sidewalk lining the presidential residence.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market moment

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PAUL SULLIVAN
METRO

So you think you can sing.

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I, for example, have learned to confine my delusion to the car with the windows rolled up all the way, to the tune of Sweet Home Alabama. Well, maybe not to the exact tune, but only a sharp or flat off.

I used to sing in the shower, but the SPCA came by one day and confiscated my dog. Some neighbour thought that horrible noise could only be the beseeching cries of an abused animal and called it in.

"I can only guess these audio-assisted thrushes have moved up through the bars and bubble-tea joints of the world and asking them to sing without their beloved music machine would be like asking Lady Gaga to appear in public without her meat dress."

Sadly, some people choose to ignore the evidence, and there's even a machine that aids and abets their transgressions. It's called a karaoke machine and, along with other weird stuff like sushi and manga, it comes from Japan.

Just so you know, "karaoke" means "empty orchestra," which just about sums it up. As anyone who has ever been to a bar knows, the karaoke machine provides the lush orchestral accompaniment, complete with lyrics, and the usually drunken patrons provide the vocal track.

The really amazing thing is that unlike the house band, karaoke never sounds better no matter how many drinks you have.

So imagine my, er, delight when I discovered there's a World Karaoke Championship, where they actually encourage these people with cash prizes and recording contracts. This year, it's in Killarney, Ireland, from Sept. 8-10. You might want to vacation in France this year.

The last one was held in Moscow, and they should have the broken glass cleared up in time for the 2014 Winter Olympics. The World Karaoke Championship website quickly points out that this contest bears no resemblance to the usual alcohol-fuelled caterwauling in bars — these people can really sing.

But if they can really sing, why do they need the cheesy canned arrangements and backup singers? Why not just ... sing? I can only guess these audio-assisted thrushes have moved up through the bars and bubble-tea joints of the world and asking them to sing without their beloved music machine would be like asking Lady Gaga to appear in public without her meat dress.

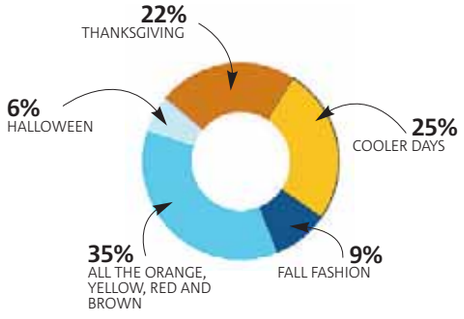
It's part of the act.

There are two British Columbians representing Canada at the 2011 Killarney blarney fest. To Trevor Dunn and Jerrica Santos, I say: Good luck and stay away from Sweet Home Alabama. That one's mine.

Read more of Paul Sullivan's columns at metronews.ca/justsaying

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

With fall around the corner, what are you looking forward to most?



Local tweets

Did you happen to notice the #earthquake? Or do you feel cheated because you missed the whole thing?

- **@jbg44:** Mixed feelings. Happy no #earthquake Mississauga + feel cheated as keep looking for pics to start photojournalism career
- **@theholythief:** My sense of entitlement has now extended to (slight) natural disasters
- **@mmaldonado:** Building at work moved, felt like a gentle rocking. Still made my stomach flip tho. TO buildings clearly not earthquake ready.
- **@jesika343:** I totally feel cheated since I didn't feel the #earthquake. That would have made my work day much more interesting.
- **@vango97:** Didn't feel the #earthquake since I thought it was the construction outside my house. #MissedItThanks
- **@viclarranga:** I feel cheated!! Although I AM feeling nauseous right now!
- **@faulhaberPR:** We felt the #earthquake, but we thought it was building construction

Letters

Jack Layton's passing is an unequivocal tragedy in the Canadian political arena. It was difficult to separate Jack Layton from his politics, not because one overrode the other, but because they were synonymous.

Layton tried to revitalize politics — fighting to give it a good name again — with unrelenting commitment to tolerance, compassion and social justice.

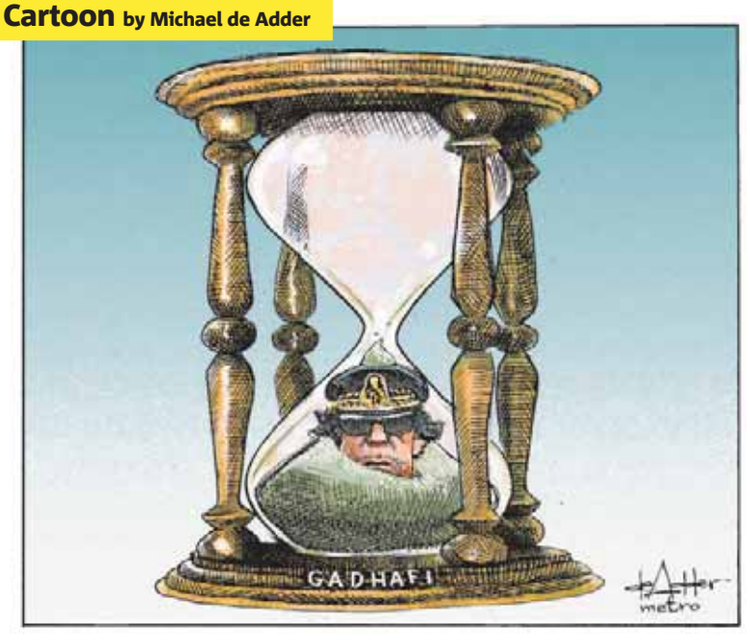
His death exemplifies that the politics of generosity and compassion aren't weak. They reflect the inner goodness that not only constitutes the historical ordinance of Canada, but also humanity.

Layton, throughout his political career, dared to reimagine Canada, attempting to reroot it as a beacon of diversity and social justice. He proved that when you truly embody your personal convictions in your politics, you will not only be heard but respected.

Layton was heard loud and clear in May, when the NDP took over as the official opposition for the first time in history; and today that man with the cane — a charismatic and passionate Canadian — is being remembered.

ZAIN VELJI
CALGARY

Cartoon by Michael de Adder



WEIRD NEWS

Sign of rogue panda disturbs motorists

Authorities in Flagstaff, Ariz., are assuring residents there are no rogue pandas roaming the city after some pranksters got creative with an electronic street sign.

The Arizona Department of Transportation-controlled sign was set up to warn drivers not to make left turns at a busy intersection. But motorists heading to work Monday morning got an entirely different message: "Rogue panda on rampage."

A passerby reported the hacked sign to police at about 3 a.m. yesterday.

Transportation Department spokeswoman Mackenzie Nuno says the sign was restored to its original message by 11 a.m.

She says the agency has no suspects, but she noted the hackers would have needed specialized equipment to change the sign.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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HANDOUT

▶ Zoe Saldana re-defines the female assassin in Columbiana.

EMBRACING THE FEMME FATALE

IN FOCUS

RICHARD CROUSE
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Chances are the first movie assassin names that pop into your head are The Jackal, Martin Q. Blank or El Mariachi. What do they have in common, other than flashy names and a predilection for gunning down their on-screen enemies?

They're all men.

What about the ladies? Beatrix Kiddo, Charlie Baltimore or Jane Smith?

Jean Luc Goddard said, "all you need to make a movie is a girl and a gun," and often these days filmmakers are placing that gun in the hands of female film assassins. Nikita is back on the tube and earlier this year Saoirse Ronan played a deadly 16-year-old in Hanna.

This weekend Avatar's Zoe Saldana is back as a stone-cold killer in Colombiana.

As Charlie Baltimore, Geena Davis created one of the screen's most loved female assassins in The Long Kiss Goodnight. Suffering from amnesia, when her past catches up with her she flip flops from suburban mom to killer.

Best Line?

"They're gonna blow my head off, you know. This is the last time I'll ever be pretty."

"They're gonna blow my head off, you know. This is the last time I'll ever be pretty."
GEENA DAVIS AS CHARLIE BALTIMORE IN THE LONG KISS GOODNIGHT

Angelina Jolie's deadly demeanor has pumped up several action movies. Lara Croft was a gun-slinging super-heroine but she's also played assassins in two movies.

In Mr. and Mrs. Smith she's a hitlady assigned to kill her own on-screen (and future real life) partner Brad Pitt.

"Still alive baby?" she purrs after trying to shoot him through a wall.

Also, as Fox in Wanted she was a member of the Fraternity, a deadly group of killers, with the useful ability to shoot around corners. Best line?

"We kill one, and maybe save a thousand. That's the code of the Fraternity."

The highest body count must go to Beatrix Kiddo, played by Uma Thurman in Kill Bill parts one and two.

As a bride done wrong by her former Deadly Viper Assassination Squad colleagues (including Vivica A. Fox plays Vernita Green and Lucy Liu as O-Ren Ishii), Kiddo slices and dices her way through more than 100 opponents.

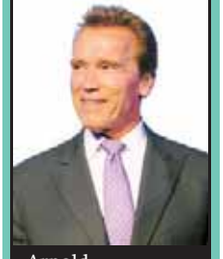
But the two most unlikely female assassins on film were found in Leon: The Professional and Kick-Ass.

In the former Natalie Portman was a 12-year-old who learns how to kill from her teacher, Léon (Jean Reno), a skillful but sensitive hitman.

In Kick-Ass, a 2010 action-comedy starring Nicolas Cage and Chloë Moretz, Hit Girl (Moretz) asks her father (and assassin mentor) for a Benchmade model 42 butterfly knife for her 11th birthday.

2 scene

He's back



Arnold Schwarzenegger will be making his movie comeback in New Mexico. The Valencia County New-Bulletin reports the movie Last Stand will start filming in Belen, N.M., in October. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Handwritten letter from author Kathryn Stockett becomes focal point in 'The Help' lawsuit

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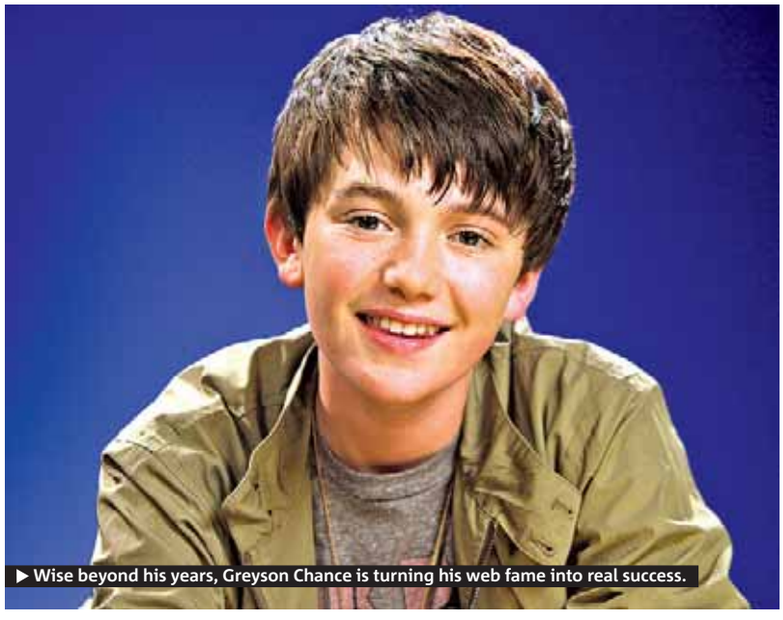
Internet famous to real-world famous

Greyson Chance building off his web fame to find success in the music industry He will be performing and doing a meet and greet at the CNE

RICHARD DREW/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Wise beyond his years, Greyson Chance is turning his web fame into real success.

Greyson Chance has the unique distinction of being a YouTube sensation.

He grabbed attention worldwide (not to mention Web hits) for his rendition of Lady Gaga's Paparazzi.

At just 12 years old, he also caught the attention of talk- show host Ellen DeGeneres.

She invited him on her show, and was so impressed, she created a record label called eleveneleven and signed him as its first artist.

Now, Greyson is 14 years old and has spent the time since writing, recording songs and touring to establish himself in the music industry.

He released his first album called Hold on 'Til the Night earlier this month.

It debuted No. 29 on the Billboard album charts.

He talked about his music, DeGeneres and how he's wise beyond his years during a recent interview.

What did you learn from recording your first album?

I learned tons from recording this album. I really got into production and started learning how to make sounds, how to make beats and that sort of thing. Also, I think I've really advanced as a songwriter because I wrote more than half of the record.

You didn't rush to put out an album after getting a record deal. Was there a pressure to keep the momentum going?

I feel like you need to take time. You need to take time to build the process, gain the fans, put out the record and also build time to realize what the heck you're doing. You don't want to rush into something. You need to take your time, realize what you're doing, what you want to do, how to market yourself. And the music industry is a lot of business and it's a lot of politics.

You're very well spoken and wise for your age. Are you sure you're only 14?

Now that you're asking, I'm actually about to turn 46 this Christmas. I'm very excited. I'm going to spend it with the kids. You know, we're gonna have a good vacation, nice Christmas and it's gonna be good.

How involved is Ellen DeGeneres in your career?

She is very, very involved. She is always critiquing songs, artwork, everything.

What's the best piece of advice she's given you?

She told me, 'Do not change yourself,' and I really haven't. I've definitely evolved as an artist and as a person but I haven't changed myself one bit.

How are you with listening to your music or watching yourself perform?

I'm very hard on myself. ... We record the show every night and I go look back at it and I write notes about what to do, what looks good, what doesn't look good.

What do you do when you downtime and you're not doing something music-related?

I'm very into photography. I love taking photos and I'm a huge reader ... I'm desperately into Harry Potter. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Come and see

Bringing his Internet fame to Toronto.

Music YouTube sensation Greyson Chance will be performing at the CNE bandshell stage on Aug. 30. Greyson will perform his new single, Unfriend You, to a crowd of 10,000 fans and will be available for an exclusive VIP meet and greet.

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Bright Eyes are still burning.

BRIGHT FUTURE?

"THIS IS NOT THE LAST BRIGHT EYES FOR SURE"

Conor Oberst has been releasing music under the Bright Eyes moniker since he was 15, and when he and his band released The People's Key earlier this year, there was some buzz that it might be the last from the formative indie rock band from Nebraska. Oberst says not to worry.

I've read that this is the final Bright Eyes album. Is that true?

No, not definitively. We don't really have any plans for the future at this point, but as far as that whole thing, that was something where someone took a quote that I said (out of context) and that was something that other people decided. We never made an official announcement. Even if it were our last record, we wouldn't say it was our last record. As the rumor mill works, that's kind of the way it goes. You can definitely quote me, this is not the last Bright Eyes for sure.

What are some of your favourite songs to play live these days?

We keep adding on at sound check. The last one we learned was this one called I Believe in Symmetry which is on the Digital Ash record, and that's always been a good one live. It has a sort of cathartic ending.

How often do you achieve catharsis when you're performing?

Night-to-night, the goal is always to be in the music and feel as connected to it as possible, and depending on the environment and the crowd and our states of mind as far as the band members I think on a good night we totally achieve that, and sometimes there's distractions or things that can take me out of the moment. But the goal is to reach that point where you remember, I guess, just remember the place, the feeling, that created the song, and try to get back to that.

You kind of get the psychedelic effect almost.

Yeah, we wanted it to be a little more trippy. We're always just trying to find new sounds that intrigue us, and then hopefully if it's something that we're interested in the listener is willing to come along with us. PAT HEALY

TIFF's guest list starting to glitter

Toronto International Film Festival announces celebrities attending in 2011 Confirms fest will open with a documentary that looks at U2

George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Ryan Gosling, Neil Young and members of U2 are among the stars set to attend next month's Toronto International Film Festival.

The fest revealed its guest list this morning.

Celeb watchers on the streets of Toronto might also catch a glimpse of Glenn Close, Hugh Laurie, James Gandolfini, Jane Fonda, Gerard Butler, Jon Hamm and Jason Reitman.

Also expected is Clive Owen, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Rachel Weisz, Seth Rogen, Evan Rachel Wood, Viggo Mortensen and Pearl Jam, along with dozens of other actors, musicians and filmmakers.

CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY IMAGES

▶ George Clooney will be among the stars at this year's TIFF.

The Toronto International Film Festival runs from Sept. 8 to 18th.

For the first time in its history, the fest will open with a documentary, Davis Guggenheims look at U2 entitled From the Sky Down.

More screenings were also announced today, including the final instalment in Jonathan Demme's documentary trilogy about legendary rocker Young, a cinematic take on Christopher Plummer's tour-de-force stage turn in Barrymore, and a sneak peak at Deepa Mehta's adaptation of the Salman Rushdie novel Midnight's Children.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Screenings

The screenings will be paired with onstage conversations as part of the festival's Mavericks program.

Program Organizers say the Mavericks program will also feature talks with director Francis Ford Coppola and actress Tilda Swinton.

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Kate Winslet saves Branson's mom from fire

Sure, she let 'Jack' freeze in the water after the Titanic sunk, but real-life actress is something of a lifesaver House destroyed, but no one was hurt

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

▶ Kate Winslet

While vacationing in Richard Branson's estate on beautiful Necker Island, Kate Winslet narrowly escaped a massive fire that destroyed the home — and even carried Branson's 90-year-old mother, Eve, to safety.

"[Winslet] was staying there with her children and in fact it was she who carried my mother out of the house," Branson tells ITV News.

"She swept her up into her arms and got them out of the house as fast as possible."

Lightning during a tropical storm is said to be the cause of the fire.

"The main house is completely destroyed and the fire is not yet completely out," the billionaire Branson says.

METRO

Ryan puts his 6-pack to use

Ryan Gosling can add peacekeeper to his resumé.

The actor broke up a scuffle in New York recently when a man tried to run off with a street vendor's painting, according to Us Weekly.

"The painter was able to stop him before he took off with him and tackled him to the ground," a source says. "Before it got too violent a stranger appeared to separate them. It was Ryan Gosling! He was trying to understand the situation while keeping them from hurting each other."

Gosling apparently escorted the men out of the street, paid for the painting and sent them on their separate ways.

METRO

▶ Ryan 'superman' Gosling

Celebrity tweets

@IMKristenBell

"The stewardess just included calculators in her list of devices that must be powered down for take off. And she said it in all sincerity."

@JamieKennedy

"If you see a ruler in a gas station bathroom ... don't touch it."

@ConanOBrien

"I like my women the way I like my coffee. Yup, I like blonde slutty coffee with low self esteem."

@kirstiealley

"The day some studio decides to remake To Kill A Mockingbird.. imma kill all the mocking birds on earth. Thatll show em....er..that I'm nuts"

Victoria ditches her high heels — for now anyway

Victoria Beckham is recovering from a slipped disc in her back, and appeared in public for the first time since the problem developed — and she wasn't wearing her trademark high-heels, according to Us Weekly.

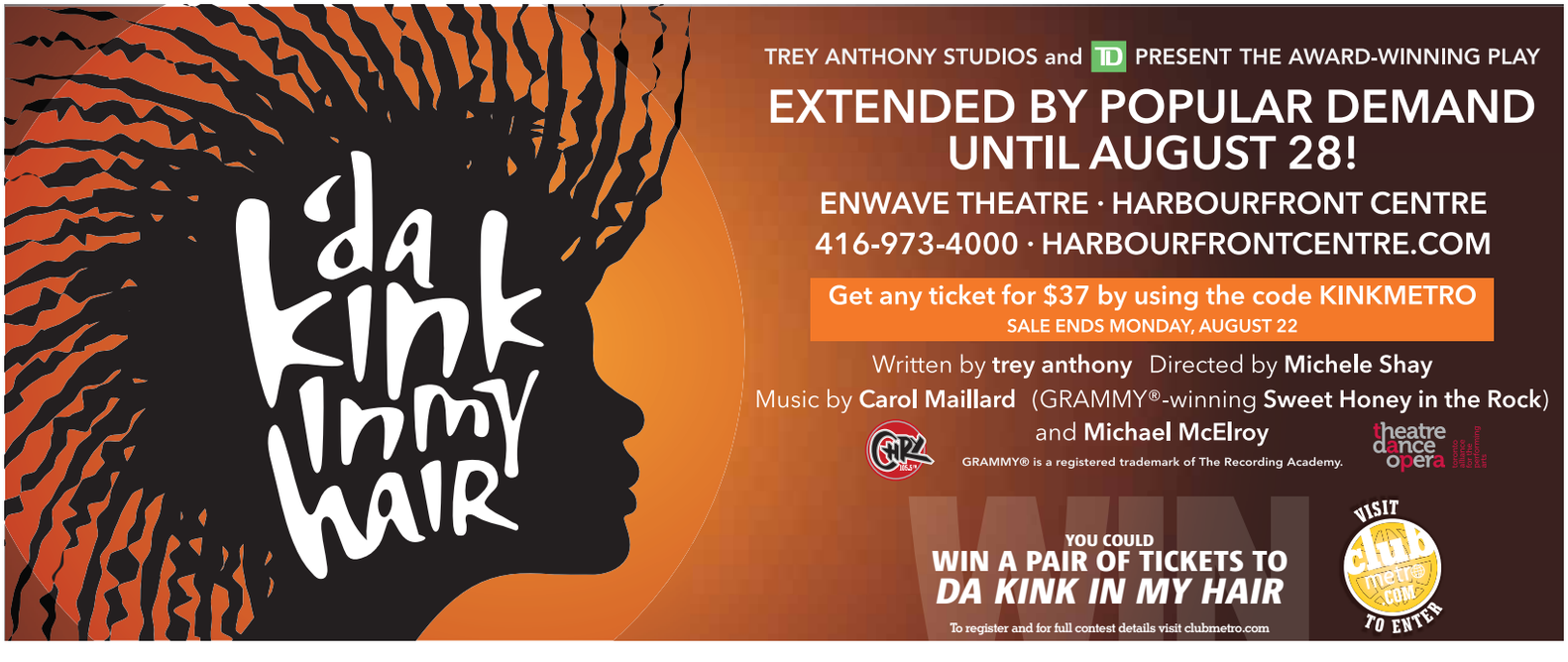
It's been speculated that the slipped disc was caused at least in part by Beckham's insistence to wear stilettos during her recent pregnancy.

"Thank you for your kind messages," Beckham posted on Twitter recently.

▶ Victoria Beckham

"I'm feeling much better and enjoying every precious minute with baby Harper. I'm so in love."

METRO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A land of wonder and Inspiration

Gabriola Island in B.C. is a magnet for artists, earning it the nickname 'Isle of the Arts'

ALL PHOTOS BOOMER JERRITT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Visitors enjoy the beach on the northern tip of Gabriola Island.

There is immeasurable character and wonder to be discovered in the mystic landscape of Gabriola Island, in the Gulf Islands of British Columbia.

Within minutes of arriving, there's a good chance you'll spot an eagle soaring, watch deer scampering along the road or pass by the alpaca farm. Ancient petroglyphs are carved into sandstone throughout the island, which is a 20-minute ferry ride from Nanaimo. There are more than a dozen beaches and ocean-side spots to visit, including the Malaspina Galleries, a stunning 3.5-metre natural sandstone formation created by years of wave erosion.

But the wondrousness isn't limited to the terrain.

According to the Gabriola Arts Council, the island has the fifth highest concentration of artists in all of Canada. The island is often referred to as the "Isle of the Arts."

"There's a real work ethic amongst the artists here," said Ramsey, who is president of the council. "They go out to their studio on Monday and come out on Friday with a whole body of work done."

Another intriguing characteristic about Gabriola is the high number of vintage cars that are seen during the summer months. Until recently, the local newspaper would publish a feature on a different vehicle every month.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

GABRIOLA ISLAND

A history of hippies

The 4,200 residents who live here emit a laid-back, welcoming vibe.

Resident Kathy Ramsey says not to be surprised if the person working at the checkout of the grocery store is a former rocket scientist.

The eccentricity of the island could be traced back to its history as a hippie colony in the 1960s, when many Earth-loving wanderers made their way over to live off the land, exploding the population

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Iconic building closing its doors

The Royal Bank building on St. Jacques Street, which graces the Montreal skyline, will close next spring when the Royal Bank shutters its branch in a building that served as its headquarters from 1928 to 1962. When it opened, it was dubbed the tallest building in the British Empire. It's not yet clear whether visitors will still be able to access it beyond next spring.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Paris airport brings Star Trek holodeck to terminal with virtual boarding agents.

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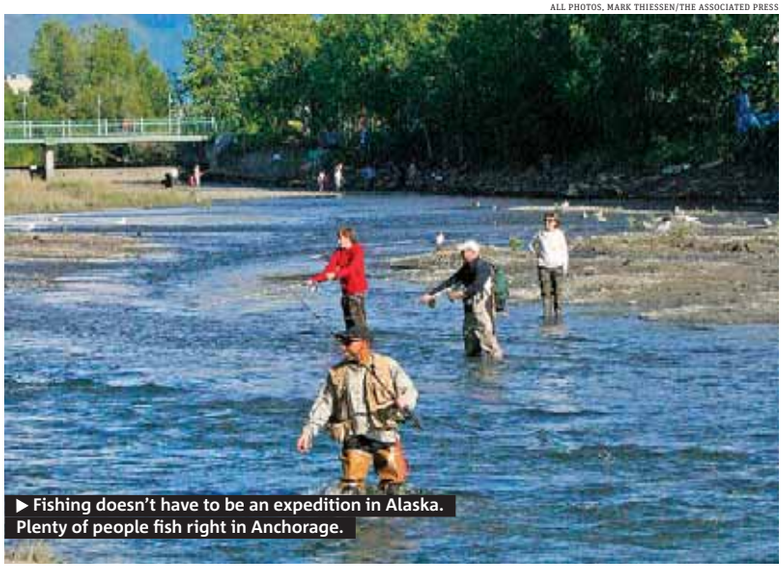
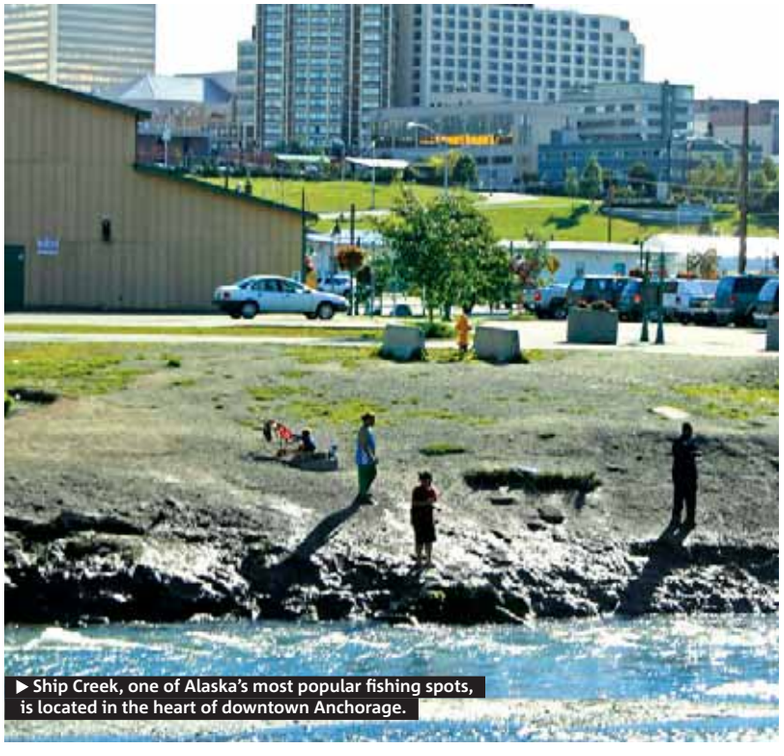


▶ Fishing doesn't have to be an expedition in Alaska. Plenty of people fish right in Anchorage.



▶ Ship Creek, one of Alaska's most popular fishing spots, is located in the heart of downtown Anchorage.

Gone Fishin'

Welcome to Alaska, where anglers can hook a salmon in the heart of downtown Anchorage

Alaska has some of the most beautiful, remote and prolific fishing spots in the world, but some would be surprised to learn that one of the most popular is in the heart of downtown Anchorage.

"It is unusual. We are right in the middle of a city," said Dan Bosch, the area sport fish manager for Anchorage, North Gulf Coast and Prince William Sound for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

"When most people come to Alaska, they think they got to fly out to go fishing. They think it's going to cost a lot of money," he said.

The fishery serves two purposes, he said. Not everyone can afford these expensive outfitter fishing trips, but can easily bring a pole to fish downtown.

Also, the stocked fishery from the nearby Elmendorf Hatchery helps relieve some of the pressure from the wild and remote creeks and streams.

The creek, which snakes from the nearby Chugach Mountains to the Knik Arm of Cook Inlet, features two main runs of salmon every summer: king and silver salmon.

"It really is a popular fishery," Bosch said.

With its proximity to downtown, it not only draws locals looking to drop a fishing line, but also tourists to either fish or watch the fishermen gut their take along the bank.

"The hotels right up here, we actually have people who stay in the hotels right here who walk down the road, right to the creek and fish in the creek," Bosch said.

Frank Cellini of Philadelphia was fishing on the banks of Ship Creek Monday afternoon with rented boots and a pole. He was in Anchorage for an accounting conference and staying at a downtown hotel, and rented fishing boots and a pole.

While he described the fishing as "pretty good," the silver salmon running in the creek only whetted his appetite to return to Alaska.

"I'd like to go out and catch the bigger salmon," he said while moving to a more advantageous spot upstream.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fishy fights

When the fish run is high, it attracts lots of fishermen angling for the best spot on the creek in a phenomenon known as combat fishing, or as Maxwell described it, shoulder-to-shoulder fishing.

"I've seen a lot of fights break out. It's usually people, one on one bank, one on the other bank, you know.

"People get mad 'cause you cross lines and they tangle, you know.

"But most of the time, people are pretty friendly."

At times, that spirit of co-operation helps anglers land a salmon.

People getting a bird's eye view of the fish from the pedestrian bridge over Ship Creek assist fishermen by telling them where in the river the fish are running.

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TEXT BY PAULINE ANDERSON AND YLVA VAN BUUREN

STARGAZING AT YORK UNIVERSITY

WHY WE LOVE IT: Gazing through York Observatory's telescope opens a window to a celestial world that is impossible to see with the naked eye. Free every Wednesday night from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m.

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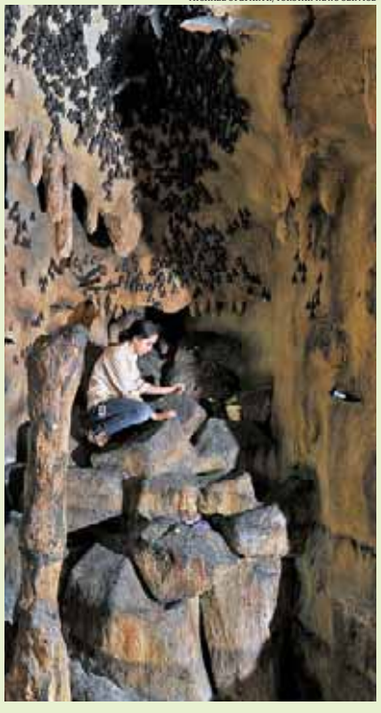
DON'T MISS: On clear evenings with a full moon — be sure to bring your single-reflex camera and black and white film with a relatively slow speed (ISO 100 is recommended).

DIRECTIONS: Science and Engineering (PSE) Building, York University, 4700 Keele St. (Note: Due to construction, the observatory can only be accessed from the sky-walk bridge on the third floor of PSE building.) There are buses from Downsview, Finch, Keele or Jane subway stations; by car: best parking is at the Thompson Road lot located in front of the Tait McKenzie Centre, just west of the Observatory. (yorkobservatory.com)

ISTOCK

Be sure to check out our next Newcomers' Guide on Aug. 31: A historical walking tour

MICHAEL STUPARYK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



BAT CAVE AT THE ROM

WHY WE LOVE IT: In addition to the creepy corners and dark nooks and crannies, the bat cave includes fun audio like the eerie sounds of dripping water and bat wings flapping overhead. There's also an audio-visual show that follows bats in flight during their nightly exodus for food. Go Friday night and pay half-price (adults $12; children 4-14 $8).

WHAT YOU LEARN: All about how bats have become part of our culture from ancient to modern times — think Bat Man comics and movies.

DON'T MISS: All the details about the daily life of a bat. For example, that bats groom during the day and most eat insects, although some eat fruit and a few eat meat. Only three species actually feed on blood.

DIRECTIONS: Royal Ontario Museum is located at 100 Queen's Park (at Bloor Street). Take the Bloor subway line to Bay and walk west (or to St. George and walk east)

CSI – LIVE! AT THE SCIENCE CENTRE

WHY WE LOVE IT: This fun interactive show invites the audience to help uncover hidden clues, investigate evidence such as mysterious gases or blood spatter, and come up with a theory about how a crime might have been committed.

WHAT YOU LEARN: How black lights can pick up blood spatters, how special chemicals make blood glow, how to preserve footprints in snow and what investigators look for when they compare fingerprints! The show, recommended for ages 8 and over, is free with admission (adults $20, children 4-12 $13) but you must reserve first-come-first-served tickets by calling 416-696-1000 ahead. Daily performances are at 11:30 a.m., 1 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. (no shows on August 27).

DON'T MISS: The regular crime science labs where you can get your hair analyzed under a high-powered microscope and see your fingerprints seemingly miraculously appear when dusted with special powder applied with a magnetic brush.

DIRECTIONS: 770 Don Mills Rd. Take an Eglinton Avenue or Don Mills Road bus. By car, take Don Valley Parkway to Don Mills Road. (ontariosciencecentre.ca)

AARON LYNETT/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Editor's pick

Vanishing aliens

Animation workshop: Join other families with kids on August 27 for The Vanishing Alien 3D clay animation show, part of the Summer Saturdays series presented by NFB Mediatheque.

After a noon screening of a short film, there will be a workshop for children ages 6-13 years where they'll learn about the art of animation using classical animation techniques. $5 per child (no charge for adults who must accompany their child).

Address: 150 John St. To get there, go to Osgoode station on the University subway line, walk or take the Queen streetcar west to John and go south to Richmond.

For information and registration, call 416-973-3012.

TONY BOCK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

DON'T MISS THESE EVENTS

Unleash your creative rhythm

Nurture your child's inner musician at the Barry Zukerman Amphitheatre in Earl Bales Park on August 25 at 7 p.m. Children of all ages can get on stage and drum along with the 10-member Rhythm Umurisho, a drumming group from Burundi. (toronto.ca/parks)

Learn how to live like a Victorian

Help bake Victorian treats or make period crafts at the Summer Victorian Extravaganzas Saturdays and Sundays in August at the Scarborough Museum (1007 Brimley Rd., just north of Lawrence in Thomson Memorial Park). Admission: by donation.

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Postcards from the planet

HEATHER GREENWOOD DAVIS
GLOBETROTTINGMAMA.COM

CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA AUGUST 20, 2011

I've done things on this trip that take me out of my comfort zone. Leading my family into the crater of a volcano so that we can jump into a pool of mud was one of them. The mucky mess brought out the kid in all of us. It was also a reminder of how stereotypes about a country and its people can keep people from experiencing some amazing things. So glad we went to Colombia.

WATCH AND LEARN MORE ABOUT HEATHER'S FAMILY ADVENTURE AND TRAVEL TIPS AT WHEREPARENTSTALK.COM

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What lies beneath

Soon, the public will get a closer look at sea life from the Bay of Fundy St. Andrews, N.B. readies aquarium

A new $8-million aquarium highlighting sea life from the Bay of Fundy will open in St. Andrews by Labour Day and is expected to attract at least 50,000 visitors a year, says spokesman Jim Cornall.

The 1,850-square-metre Fundy Discovery Aquarium, located at the Huntsman Marine Science Centre, will remain open year-round. It replaces a much smaller aquarium that had been at the site since 1972 and was torn down in May 2010.

A pair of popular harbour seals named Loki and Snorkel are back, giving shows at twice-a-day feedings, but they now occupy a deep pool with an underwater window, said Cornall.

"The viewing experience for the public is certainly better."

There are also rare 10-kilogram lobsters, a large touch pool featuring sea stars, crabs, sea cucumbers and other animals, and a separate touch pool with skates.

"We carry a range of creatures that would be in the (Fundy) intertidal zone all the way down to the deep sea" — a broad selection that allows the aquarium to raise issues such as ecology, climate change and invasive species, says Cornall.

As well, a two-storey display shows the height of the local tides.

"We're lucky that the Bay of Fundy has the highest tides in the world. It's an impressive exhibit."

The federal and New Brunswick governments each contributed $2.5 million toward the aquarium, while the Huntsman Marine Science Centre, a research and education facility, added $3 million.

St. Andrews, in the southwest corner of N.B., is about 100 kilometres west of Saint John.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ALL PHOTOS, THE HUNTSMAN MARINE SCIENCE CENTRE, THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ The popular harbour seal Snorkel will be giving twice-daily shows at the new aquarium.

▶ This lobster was raised at the aquarium from an egg.

▶ The new aquarium will be located at the Huntsman Marine Science Centre.

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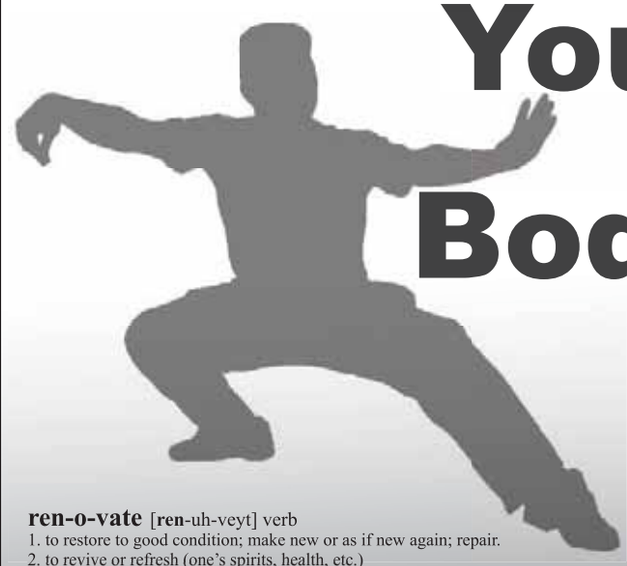

ren-o-vate [**ren**-uh-veyt] verb
1. to restore to good condition; make new or as if new again; repair.
2. to revive or refresh (one's spirits, health, etc.)
[from Latin renovāre, from re- + novāre to make new, from novus new]

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Visitors flock to swans

Ashbury Park's century-old swan boat tradition lives on with new pedal boat rentals that started this season

MEL EVANS, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Swan and storybook-creature boats are making quite the splash in Ashbury Park.

It's a blast from the past, served with youthful abandon, easy aerobics and a sprinkle of yoga-like serenity.

A new concession offers a modern twist on Asbury Park's century-old tradition: swan boats on Wesley Lake.

A short stroll from the Atlantic Ocean boardwalk, locals and tourists alike are now happily pedalling around the shallow inland waters while enjoying a view of Asbury Park's famous old Carousel House (700 Ocean Ave.) and the Victorian splendour of neighbouring Ocean Grove.

The boats shaped like sleek storybook creatures — gleaming and proud-looking, their wings curved with a suggestion of art deco style — are making quite a splash at this rejuvenated music and beach destination.

Linda Occhipinti and Joseph Gambarony opened Asbury Park Pedal Boats (Lake Avenue, between Heck and Grand avenues) this season.

The precise history and description of the original swan boats are elusive. Unlike the new pedal versions, some apparently were motorized, and accommodated larger groups.

"It looked like a great big white swan," local resident Shirley Schneider said, recalling a vibrant, festive family gathering from the past that included the Ferris Wheel and Tunnel of Love at the adjacent Palace Amusements, which closed in 1989.

An old postcard depicts dressed-up ladies and gentlemen in hats in a boat similar to what she described. Going back even farther in time, news accounts from the 19th century provide fascinating glimpses into the colourful era in which the swan boats first thrived.

In June 1889, the Trenton Evening News' "Asbury Park Doings" column noted "the various kinds of craft that ply up and down" Wesley Lake, including about 100 rowboats and four swan boats.

The current boats, steered with a centre knob, hold one adult and two children, or two adults and one child. It works equally well with one or two people pedalling.

A ride costs $20 for a half-hour with three aboard, $18 for two, and $15 on Tuesdays.

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tico.ca

KAREN SCHWARTZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ The Isrotel Beresheet Hotel overlooks Makhtesh Ramon.

Desert delights

Israel's Makhtesh Ramon is an educational adventure

I told my daughter we were looking for an onager, the wild ass mentioned in the Bible.

I hoped the lure of looking for a living Eeyore would be enough to get my 10-year-old interested as we stood looking out over Makhtesh Ramon in Israel's Negev Desert, one of the world's largest erosion craters.

I understood her disinterest. As far as we could see, there was only rock and sand. But the makhtesh is a natural geography book, telling stories that in some instances date back 220 million years, and I didn't want to miss the opportunity to explore.

With lots of water and a map, we blasted the car's air conditioning and wound our way down into the crater. Our first stop was a rock formation called the Carpentry Shop, where a wooden sidewalk let us walk above the rare geometric sandstone crystals that jut from the ground in regimented rows.

Next, following a recommendation from a naturalist, we stopped at a site not on the map. Mounds of pink, orange, yellow, purple and brown sand had been left in a small valley. Just off the parking lot, a park worker sat in the shade of an awning, handing test tubes to visitors who wanted to take home a souvenir.

Although we had travelled less than eight kilometres, we had done so leisurely and the morning had passed. The naturalist had told us there was only one place for food in the crater, a "snack bar" at the Be'erot campground. As we bumped along the rutted dirt access road, we were surprised by five modern tour buses approaching from out of the shimmering heat. We were even more surprised a few minutes later when we pulled into the campground, and the "snack bar" was a Bedouin tent.

We ordered lunch and were invited to sit on striped mats around a low table with a fuchsia tablecloth. Although it was peak tourist season and the adjacent campground appeared full, we were the only ones dining in the enormous tent, glad to have missed the tour groups.

After lunch we had only a few hours to complete our search for the elusive onager. Hunted to extinction in Israel and neighbouring Syria in 1927, they were reintroduced to Makhtesh Ramon in the 1980s, and now number more than 100. Knowing that they often frequent the crater's only water source, Ein Saharonim, we knew our next destination.

My daughter was disappointed to see no onagers, but enjoyed her day.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

If you go

- **Makhtesh Ramon**
  Located in Mitzpeh Ramon, about 80 kilometres south of Beer Sheva, midway between Jerusalem and Eliat.
- **Bio-Ramon**
  Offers a small menagerie, opens at 8 a.m. and closes late afternoon. Activities include alpaca farm, archery, rappelling, guided star-gazing trips, Jeep rentals, bicycle rentals and camel rides.

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Drink of the week

Blueberry-Basil Rickey

- 1 sprig fresh basil
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) sugar
- 60 ml (2 oz) blueberry juice
- 15 ml (1/2 oz) lime juice
- 30 ml (1 oz) gin (optional)
- Ice
- Club soda
- Handful of fresh blueberries

In bottom of highball glass, muddle basil with sugar. Pour in blueberry juice, lime juice and gin (if using) and stir to dissolve sugar. Add ice and club soda, stirring gently. Garnish with blueberries. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ ALISON LADMAN

Comfort foods of Italy — that's amore

Tomatoes star in this easy, delicious Pasta Pomodoro

MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

One of the basic ways Italians prepare garden-fresh tomatoes is in a pomodoro sauce made with basil and garlic tossed with pasta. This dish embodies the core philosophy of Italian food: letting a few perfectly ripe ingredients shine.

Preparation:

1. In pot, bring 6 l (24 cups) of water to a boil. Add 30 ml (2 tbsp) of salt.
2. In non-stick skillet over medium-low, heat 7 ml (1/2 tbsp) of the oil. Add garlic slices and toast, stirring constantly, for 3 or until lightly browned. Increase heat to medium, add red pepper flakes and half of the basil leaves. Cook for 30 seconds, then add tomatoes.
3. Add pasta to boiling water and cook until al dente according to package directions.
4. Meanwhile, toss tomatoes in skillet and cook until they start to blister and the skins pop. Mash tomatoes with potato masher or fork to make pulp, then turn off heat. Season lightly with salt and black pepper.
5. Drain pasta, reserving 50 ml (1/4 cup) of cooking water. Add pasta and reserved pasta water to tomato mix. Increase heat to medium-high. Add half of cheese. Cook until sauce begins to cling to noodles, using heat-resistant rubber spatula to toss pasta to coat.
6. Add remaining basil and olive oil and toss to coat. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Divide pasta among 4 plates and sprinkle with remaining cheese.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ ROCCO DISPIRITO

Ingredients:

- Salt
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) extra-virgin olive oil, divided
- 6 cloves garlic, thinly sliced
- Pinch red pepper flakes (peperoncino)
- 16 fresh basil leaves, torn into small pieces, divided
- 1 l (4 cups) very ripe grape tomatoes (about 80 grape tomatoes)
- 250 g (8 oz) dry kamut spaghetti
- Ground black pepper, to taste
- 30 ml (1 oz) Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese, freshly grated, divided

You don't always get what you pay for, especially when it comes to insurance

Are You Paying Too Much?

The motto "you get what you pay for" used to be true of most things, but the times, they are changin', and this is no longer true for many things, most notably car insurance. In fact, you could be paying hundreds, or even thousands of dollars more than you should for your coverage.

How is this possible? It is somewhat complicated to explain, but, to sum it up: Insurance companies base their rates on their experience with similar driver profiles and cars. Since no two companies' experiences are exactly the same, it is rare that different companies will give you the same potential insurance premium for your profile and car.

Experience Counts

It has been statistically proven that drivers over 50 years of age have fewer accidents and tickets than the average, and this means that there are more potential savings to be found for more experienced drivers. In fact, some companies actually specialize in serving the mature market, so it's definitely worth comparing rates.

Loyalty May Not Pay

If you are getting a loyalty discount you might be thinking that you are better off staying with your current insurance provider. This might be true, but it's impossible to be certain without doing some research. You just might find that the potential savings far outweigh any loyalty discount being offered.

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Rate Comparison

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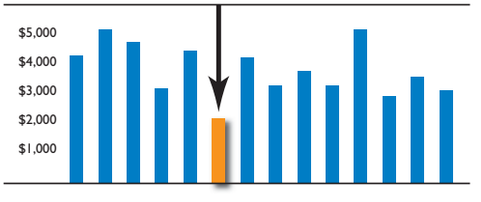

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Had a long day at work and just want to bang on a drum for the rest of the day?
League of Rock is attracting scores of musicians who are jonesin' just as hard to jam

Punch out, then rock out

PHOEBE HO
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

Bursts of drum roll, guitar and a powerful female voice rocking Tina Turner's River Deep, Mountain High is seeping out of the soundproof room at the Rehearsal Factory.

The voice belongs to 52-year-old Mary Ann Weber, mother of two. It's Wednesday night, which means it's Weber's opportunity to let loose and indulge in her one passion.

"I was at a point in my life where I was very busy with my kids and working full-time in pharmaceutical sales, I didn't have any outside interests other than just working and raising my kids," said Weber. "I don't have that kind of frivolous life normally, so this is my night out."

"Singing is just a fantastic release, the added benefit here is that it's more intimate. "
MARY-ANN WEBER
LEAGUE OF ROCK PARTICIPANT

Singing at the top of her lungs while strutting and dancing around in performance mode, she jams with her band as part of a 10-week program at the League of Rock, where anyone who can sing or play an instrument gets a chance to find their inner rockstar, learn from the pros and record a CD.

"There's this buzz of not knowing who's in the band and really working through that challenge," said League of Rock founder Terry Moshenberg. "But it's not just a jam session, it's a very creatively charged social experience."

It's only been three weeks since Weber first met her band, but they already have a routine going. The atmosphere is vibrant, fun and relaxed, says Weber. The night usually starts off with small chit-chats and jokes thrown around before they start rehearsing the three songs they've chosen to play in the live showcase concert at the end of the program.

"Singing is just a fantastic release. The added benefit here is that it's more intimate," said Weber. "It gives me a chance to meet people I would never meet, people who are musically talented and have a pretty high skill level."

While still a little nervous whenever one of the professional musicians comes around to coach them, Weber says it pushes her to perform at her best.

"The performance aspect, that is totally what I want to learn," she said. "I'm not pretending to be a rockstar, I'm not going on the road next week, I'm not quitting my day job, but this is an experience that I want to have and I want to do it to the fullest."

▶ Mary Ann Weber rehearses Led Zeppelin's Rock 'n' Roll with her band Leap of Faith.

▶ Leap of Faith rehearses one of their three songs to prepare for the big showcase, where families and friends will be able to enjoy their performance.

School of rock

Liking what you hear about the League?

- Members are coached by professional musicians and producers like Jeff Jones, Terry Brown and Jim McCarty
- Costs $98 per week for a 10-week session
- Bands get to record their songs in a recording studio
- For more information, visit leagueofrock.com

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With risk comes reward

STUDENT VOICE

RAMAN BATTU
TALENTEGG.CA

I was just about to complete my Bachelor of Commerce in Marketing from Ryerson University. I started looking for jobs a few months before graduation, but I wasn't prepared for the problems I would face.

I quickly realized that employers didn't care about the marketing courses I had taken, or my GPA. They cared about relevant work experience.

Fortunately, I had some prior experience compared to some graduates but even that was minimal.

With this small experience, I was able to get through to a few second interviews. However, I always heard the same thing when

▶ Raman Battu

employers were making the final cuts: I didn't get the job because I lacked experience.

It was so frustrating having to convince an employer to give me a chance! How else do they expect any new graduate to gain experience?

Employers can't expect every graduate to be the complete package. We are young, motivated and full of fresh, new ideas!

Employers should take a risk and hire new graduates. It doesn't matter if we haven't worked in a large corporation or do not have a specific skill. We can learn! That's what we have been doing our whole academic careers. Don't undervalue a graduate by thinking there is no time to train them.

Career centres and schools also need to do more to help students by providing them with co-op experience while in school, regardless of their GPA.

Schools should also provide hands-on experience during class time. For example, case studies are a great way to practice new problem solving skills that employers are looking for.

Also, schools should constantly update courses to better assist students. When I graduated in 2010, I learned nothing about social media and its relation to marketing, a knowledge base that would have been highly useful upon graduation.

My recommendation to students would be this: find an internship or part-time position while you're still in school so you can get your foot in the door.

TALENTEGG.CA, CANADA'S ONLINE CAREER RESOURCE FOR STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADS, WANTS TO HEAR YOUR STUDENT VOICE. SHARE IT AT TALENTEGG.CA.

Where Raman is now

I eventually did find a job at a small company through a mutual friend. I appreciated the fact that my employer took the risk to hire me, a new graduate. Having gained more experience, I am currently looking for a marketing position with more responsibilities to help grow my career.

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DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ John McDonald fans hold up a banner during last night's Blue Jays game.

Hill and McDonald traded

Jays ship duo to Arizona for Kelly Johnson, but GM says they could return next season

Although it's farewell, it might not be goodbye.

"I have not ruled out either player being back here in 2012," Blue Jays general manager Alex Anthopoulos said after announcing yesterday that second baseman Aaron Hill and infielder John McDonald had been traded to the Arizona Diamondbacks for second baseman Kelly Johnson.

All three players can be free agents in the off-season.

"This is all I've known, this has been my family," Hill told the media at Rogers Centre before the Blue Jays game with the Kansas City Royals. "Like Alex said, I'm very open to coming back next year. This isn't the end."

Added McDonald: "I've had a lot of conversations with Alex recently about just that, about continuing to be a Toronto Blue Jay, and that excites me too."

The 29-year-old Johnson, long rumoured to be an Anthopoulos target, has appeared in 114 games for Arizona this season, posting a .209 average with 18 home runs, 49 RBIs and 13 stolen bases.

A first-round pick of the Atlanta Braves in 2000, Johnson is a career .260 hitter with 89 home runs and 326 RBIs in 758 games.

"He has the ability to get on base, draw some walks and he's got power to all fields," Anthopoulos said. "He'd be the first one to tell you, I'm sure, he's not performing the way he expected to, especially off the year he came off of last year."

Players must clear waivers to be traded after July 31 and Anthopoulos said all the Blue Jays players cleared early in August as a matter of club policy.

It was at that time that talks with the Diamondbacks on a possible deal started to take place.

Hill has struggled the last two seasons with the Blue Jays, but said he will cherish his time in Toronto, noting the club's bright future.

"This team will win. The way they're going, the direction they're going, with Alex and everybody, I do believe this team will win," Hill said. "Whether I'm a part of that or not, I'll be rooting for them because this is a special place.

"Not only are you playing for the city of Toronto but the country of Canada. It's a very special place and it will be missed."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jays lose

Right-hander Brandon Morrow (9-8) allowed 11 hits and six runs in 4⅓ innings last night as the Jays lost to the Royals 6-4.

- Yunel Escobar hit a three-run homer for the Blue Jays (65-63) after the Royals had built a 6-0 lead with three runs each in the second and fifth innings.
- Royals starter Bruce Chen equalled his career high with nine strikeouts. Chen (9-5) didn't allow a hit until Escobar snapped his 0-for-17 funk with a leadoff single in the fourth.
- Jeff Francoeur had his ninth career four-hit game as the Royals (53-76) outhit the Blue Jays 16-6.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

4 sports

Quoted

"My mom told me if you're going to leave school to go to the draft, and there is a lockout, I need you to go back to school and continue on with your degree. I was all for it."

CLEVELAND CAVALIERS NO. 4 DRAFT PICK TRISTAN THOMPSON, WHO ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY HE WILL RETURN TO HIS STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS DUE TO THE NBA LOCKOUT. THE 20-YEAR-OLD FROM BRAMPTON IS GETTING READY FOR A FULL COURSE LOAD AND PRACTISING WITH HIS FORMER TEAMMATES.

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‘He’s the face of the NHL’

Lightning sniper Stamkos speaks amid rumours of setback for Crosby

Steven Stamkos says the NHL needs Sidney Crosby.

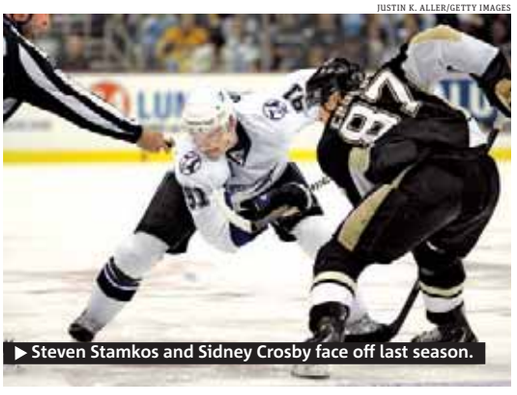
The Pittsburgh Penguins superstar has been out of action since January with post-concussion syndrome and it was rumoured this week he suffered a setback in his recovery.

Stamkos said it’s difficult to see Crosby on the sidelines, both for the health of the league and as a fellow player.

“It’d be tough, we need him. He’s the face of the NHL,” the Tampa Bay Lightning sniper said yesterday at an NHL fitness camp in Toronto. “It obviously would take away from our game not having him in the lineup, so hopefully everything goes well.”

Crosby’s agent tried to quell rumours Monday that the centre had cancelled some on-ice workouts and that he wouldn’t he ready for training camp next month.

JUSTIN K. ALLER/GETTY IMAGES



▶ Steven Stamkos and Sidney Crosby face off last season.

Pat Brisson said in a release the 24-year-old had adjusted his workout schedule and would address his condition at an “appropriate time.”

Crosby hasn’t appeared in a game since Jan. 5 when he took a blow to the head for a second straight game and was diagnosed with a concussion.

Stamkos, who recently signed a big extension with Tampa Bay, added the amount of concussions in the league is alarming.

“It’s scary with the amount of concussions, not only with him, over the past couple years,” Stamkos said. “As a fellow player in the league, you want to prevent that sort of thing.”

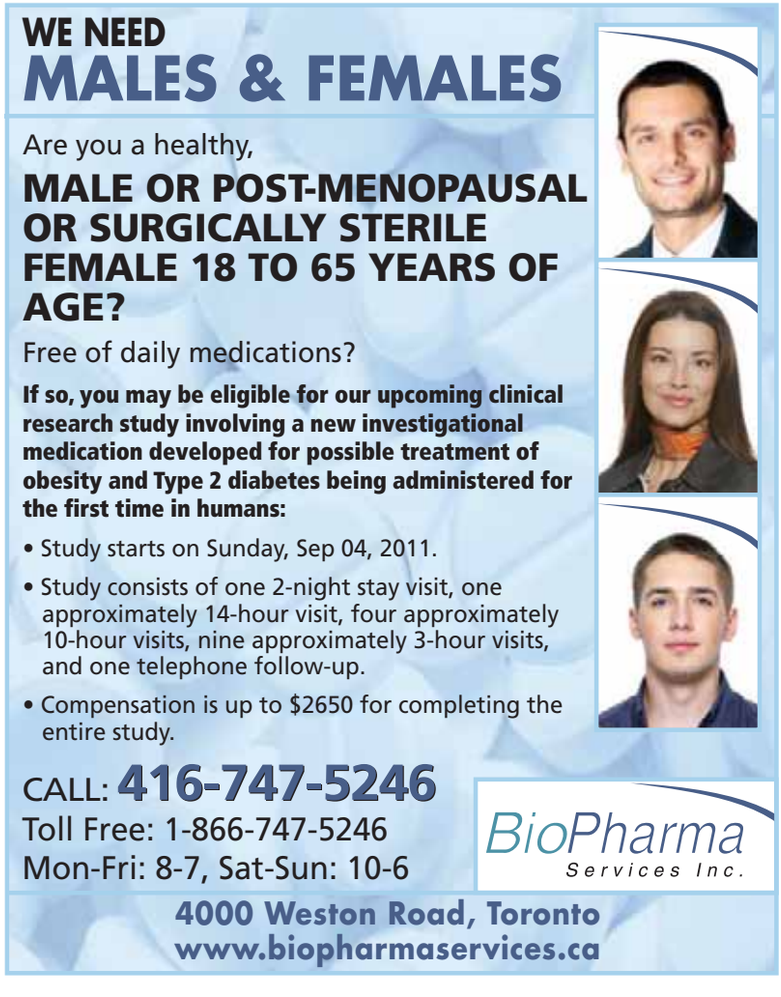
Anaheim Ducks centre Andrew Cogliano echoed Stamkos’s feelings about Crosby’s health and his importance to the NHL.

“Sidney’s a great player, he’s a great ambassador for the game,” he said. “Hopefully, he’s back 100 per cent at the beginning of the season.”

There have been calls in some circles that Crosby should consider retiring, but Stamkos said it’s too early for that.

“Who knows how he’s feeling? He’s got to be the judge of that. You just hope that guys are smart when it comes to their health because that’s definitely more important than the game,” Stamkos said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS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MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

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EAST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	77	49	.611	—
Boston	77	50	.606	½
Tampa Bay	69	57	.548	8
Toronto	65	63	.508	13
Baltimore	48	77	.384	28½

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	69	58	.543	—
Chicago	63	63	.500	5½
Cleveland	63	63	.500	5½
Minnesota	55	72	.433	14
Kansas City	53	76	.411	17

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Texas	74	55	.574	—
Los Angeles	69	59	.539	4½
Oakland	58	70	.453	15½
Seattle	55	73	.430	18½

Yesterday's results

Kansas City 6 Toronto 4

Cleveland 7-7 Seattle 5-12

Oakland 6 N.Y. Yankees 5

Detroit at Tampa Bay

Boston at Texas

Baltimore at Minnesota

Chicago White Sox at L.A. Angels

Monday's results

Seattle 3, Cleveland 2

Detroit 5, Tampa Bay 2

Texas 4, Boston 0

Baltimore 4, Minnesota 1

Today's games

Seattle (F.Hernandez 11-11) at Cleveland (Tomlin 12-6), 12:05 p.m.

Boston (Beckett 10-5) at Texas (M.Harrison 10-8), 7:05 p.m.

Oakland (Cahill 9-12) at N.Y. Yankees (Sabathia 17-7), 7:05 p.m.

Kansas City (Hochevar 8-10) at Toronto (R.Romero 12-9), 7:07 p.m.

Detroit (Scherzer 13-7) at Tampa Bay (W.Davis 8-7), 7:10 p.m.

Baltimore (Guthrie 5-16) at Minnesota (Slowey 0-1), 8:10 p.m.

Chicago White Sox (Z.Stewart 1-2) at L.A. Angels (Weaver 14-6), 10:05 p.m.

Tomorrow's games

Oakland at N.Y. Yankees, 1:05 p.m.

Baltimore at Minnesota, 1:10 p.m.

Detroit at Tampa Bay, 1:10 p.m.

Kansas City at Toronto, 7:07 p.m.

Boston at Texas, 8:05 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	83	44	.654	—
Atlanta	77	52	.597	7
Washington	62	65	.488	21
New York	60	68	.469	23½
Florida	57	70	.449	26

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	78	53	.595	—
St. Louis	67	61	.523	9½
Cincinnati	62	65	.488	14
Pittsburgh	60	68	.469	16½
Chicago	56	72	.438	20½
Houston	42	86	.328	34½

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Arizona	70	59	.543	—
San Francisco	68	60	.531	1½
Colorado	61	68	.473	9
San Diego	59	70	.457	11
Los Angeles	58	69	.457	11

Yesterday's results

Arizona 2 Washington 0

Milwaukee 11 Pittsburgh 4

Philadelphia 9 N.Y. Mets 4

Cincinnati at Florida

Atlanta at Chicago Cubs

L.A. Dodgers at St. Louis

Houston at Colorado

San Diego at San Francisco

Monday's results

Milwaukee 8, Pittsburgh 1, 1st game

Washington 4, Arizona 1

Philadelphia 10, N.Y. Mets 0

Atlanta 3, Chicago Cubs 0

L.A. Dodgers 2, St. Louis 1

Pittsburgh 9, Milwaukee 2, 2nd game

Colorado 9, Houston 5

Today's games

Milwaukee (Marcum 11-3) at Pittsburgh (A.Thompson 0-0), 12:35 p.m.

N.Y. Mets (Pelfrey 6-10) at Philadelphia (K.Kendrick 7-5), 1:05 p.m.

L.A. Dodgers (Kuroda 9-14) at St. Louis (J.Garcia 10-6), 2:15 p.m.

Houston (W.Rodriguez 9-9) at Colorado (A.Cook 3-7), 3:10 p.m.

Cincinnati (H.Bailey 7-5) at Florida (Vazquez 7-11), 4:10 p.m., 1st game

Arizona (D.Hudson 12-9) at Washington (L.Hernandez 7-11), 7:05 p.m.

Cincinnati (Arroyo 7-10) at Florida (Volstad 5-10), 7:40 p.m., 2nd game

Atlanta (D.Lowe 8-11) at Chicago Cubs (R.Wells 4-4), 8:05 p.m.

San Diego (Stauffer 8-9) at San Francisco (Lincecum 11-10), 10:15 p.m.

Tomorrow's games

Atlanta at Chicago Cubs, 2:20 p.m.

Arizona at Washington, 7:05 p.m.

Cincinnati at Florida, ppd., rain

Pittsburgh at St. Louis, 8:15 p.m.

Houston at San Francisco, 10:15 p.m.

ROYALS 6, BLUE JAYS 4

Kansas City	ab	r	h	bi	Toronto	ab	r	h	bi
AGordn lf	5	0	1	0	YEscor ss	4	1	2	3
MeCarr cf	5	0	1	0	EThms lf	4	1	1	0
Butler dh	5	1	1	1	Bautist rf	4	0	0	0
Hosmer 1b	5	2	3	1	Lind 1b	4	0	1	1
Francr rf	5	1	4	0	Encrnc dh	4	0	0	0
Giavtll 2b	4	2	2	2	Rasms cf	3	0	0	0
Getz 2b	1	0	0	0	Teahen ph	1	0	0	0
S.Perez c	5	0	2	2	Lawrie 3b	3	0	0	0
Mostks 3b	3	0	2	0	JMolin c	3	1	1	0
AEscor ss	4	0	0	0	McCoy 2b	2	1	1	0
Totals	**42**	**6**	**16**	**6**	**Totals**	**32**	**4**	**6**	**4**
Kansas City					030	030	000	6	
Toronto					000	003	001	4	

E—Rasmus (2). DP—Kansas City 1. LOB—Kansas City 10, Toronto 2. 2B—Francoeur 2 (39), Giavotella (3), E.Thames (15). 3B—S.Perez (1). HR—Butler (16), Hosmer (11), Y.Escobar (11). SB—Hosmer (7), McCoy (5).

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Kansas City						
Chen W,9-5	7	2-3	4	3	3	1	9
G.Holland H,13	1-3		0	0	0	0	0
Soria S,23-30	1		2	1	1	0	2
Toronto							
Morrow L,9-8	4	2-3	11	6	6	1	5
Ledezma	1		1	0	0	0	1
Carreno	3	1-3	4	0	0	0	2

Umpires—Home, John Hirschbeck; First, Laz Diaz; Second, Wally Bell; Third, Scott Barry. T—2:53. A—20,009 (49,260).

BLUE JAYS STATISTICS

BATTERS	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
Lawrie	55	8	18	3	10	.327
Bautista	396	91	126	36	80	.318
Molina	129	17	39	2	11	.302
Escobar	450	68	129	10	41	.287
Encarnacion	369	55	103	12	39	.279
Thames	228	36	61	8	27	.268
Lind	396	49	104	22	72	.263
McDonald	168	19	42	2	20	.250
Davis	320	44	76	1	29	.238
Hill	396	38	89	6	45	.225
Rasmus	85	11	19	3	12	.224
McCoy	81	11	18	1	5	.222
Arencibia	347	38	74	19	57	.213
Teahen	133	12	25	4	12	.188
PITCHERS	**W**	**L**	**SV**	**IP**	**SO**	**ERA**
McCoy	0	0	0	1.0	0	0.00
Janssen	4	0	2	41.0	42	2.20
Romero	12	9	0	175.0	147	2.73
Perez	3	2	0	49.2	41	3.26
Francisco	1	4	10	37.2	40	4.06
Litsch	4	3	1	59.2	51	4.22
Cecil	4	6	0	91.1	64	4.24
Villanueva	6	3	0	97.2	63	4.24
Alvarez	0	1	0	16.2	10	4.32
Morrow	9	7	0	132.2	154	4.41
Rauch	5	4	11	50.1	35	4.47
Camp	1	2	1	53.1	26	4.56
Ledezma	0	0	0	3.0	5	9.00
Lewis	0	0	0	0.1	0	27.00

Not including last night's games

LACROSSE

MINTO CUP

CANADIAN JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

At Okotoks, Alta.

Last night's results

Whitby 19 Edmonton 3

Okotoks vs. Coquitlam

Tonight's game

Semifinal

Second vs. Third Places, 10 p.m.

SOCCER

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pt
Columbus	25	11	7	7	29	24	40
Kansas City	25	9	7	9	36	31	36
Houston	26	8	7	11	34	32	35
Philadelphia	24	8	6	10	30	24	34
New York	26	6	6	14	41	37	32
D.C. United	24	7	7	10	34	35	31
Chicago	25	3	7	15	28	33	24
New England	26	4	11	11	26	39	23
Toronto	27	4	12	11	25	48	23

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pt
Los Angeles	26	14	3	9	37	20	51
Seattle	26	12	5	9	36	27	45
Dallas	26	12	7	7	33	27	43
Colorado	27	10	6	11	39	34	41
Real Salt Lake	23	10	7	6	32	20	36
Chivas USA	25	7	8	10	32	28	31
Portland	25	8	12	5	32	41	29
San Jose	25	5	10	10	26	34	25
Vancouver	25	3	13	9	26	42	18

Note: Three points for a win, one for a tie.

Tonight's game

Chivas USA at Portland, 11 p.m.

Saturday's games

Columbus at Seattle, 4 p.m.

San Jose at Toronto, 7 p.m.

Houston at Vancouver, 7 p.m.

Portland at D.C. United, 7:30 p.m.

Colorado at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.

Dallas at Kansas City, 8:30 p.m.

Real Salt Lake at Chivas USA, 10:30 p.m.

Sunday's game

Los Angeles at New York, 7 p.m.

New England at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.

ENGLAND

LEAGUE CUP

FIRST ROUND

Yesterday's results

Crystal Palace 2, Crawley 0

Bristol Rovers 1, Watford 1, Bristol advanced 4-2 on penalty kicks

Charlton 2, Reading 1

Second Round

Aston Villa 2, Hereford 0

Bournemouth 1, West Bromwich Albion 4

Brighton 1, Sunderland 0, OT

Burnley 3, Barnet 2, OT

Bury 2, Leicester 4

Cardiff 5, Huddersfield 3, OT

Doncaster 1, Leeds 2

Millwall 2, Morecambe 0

Northampton 0, Wolverhampton Wanderers 4

Norwich 0, MK Dons 4

Queens Park Rangers 0, Rochdale 2

Shrewsbury 3, Swansea 1

Wycombe 1, Nottingham Forest 4

SCOTLAND

LEAGUE CUP

SECOND ROUND

Yesterday's results

Morton 3, St. Mirren 4

Aberdeen 1, Dundee 0

Airdrie 2, Raith 0

East Fife 2, Dunfermline 1

Hamilton 1, Ross County 2

Hibernian 5, Berwick 0

Queen of the South 3, Forfar 0

UEFA

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Yesterday's results

APOEL (Cyprus) 3 Wisla Krakow (Poland) 1 (APOEL advances on 3-2 aggregate)

Genk (Belgium) 2 Maccabi Haifa (Israel) 1 (extra time)

(aggregate 3-3 and 1-1 on away goals; Genk advances 4-1 on penalties)

Malmo (Sweden) 2 Dinamo Zagreb (Croatia) 0 (Dinamo advances 4-3)

Villarreal (Spain) 3 Odense (Denmark) 0 (Villarreal advances 3-1)

Zurich (Switzerland) 0 Bayern Munich (Germany) 1

(Bayern Munich advances 3-0)

GOLF

WEEKEND GLANCE

PGA TOUR

FEDEX CUP PLAYOFFS

THE BARCLAYS

Site: Edison, N.J.

Schedule: Tomorrow-Sunday.

Television: Golf Channel (Tomorrow-Friday, 3-6 p.m.; Saturday, 1-2:30 p.m.; Sunday, noon(equals)1:30 p.m.) and CBS (Saturday, 3-6 p.m.; Sunday, 2-6 p.m.).

Online: www.pgatour.com

LPGA TOUR

CANADIAN WOMEN'S OPEN

Site: Mirabel, Quebec.

Schedule: Tomorrow-Sunday.

Television: Golf Channel (Tomorrow, 6:30-8:30 p.m.; Saturday, midnight-2 a.m., 3-6 p.m.; Sunday, 2-6 p.m.).

Online: www.lpga.com

Tournament site: www.cncanadianwomensopen.com

CHAMPIONS TOUR

BOEING CLASSIC

Site: Snoqualmie, Wash.

Schedule: Friday-Sunday.

Television: Golf Channel (Friday, 6:30-8:30 p.m.; Saturday, 6:30-9:30 p.m.; Sunday, 7-9:30 p.m.).

Online: www.pgatour.com

EUROPEAN TOUR

JOHNNIE WALKER CHAMPIONSHIP

Site: Perthshire, Scotland.

Schedule: Tomorrow-Sunday.

Television: Golf Channel (Tomorrow-Friday, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 a.m.; Saturday-Sunday, 9 a.m.-noon).

Online: www.europeantour.com

NATIONWIDE TOUR

NEWS SENTINEL OPEN

Site: Knoxville, Tenn.

Schedule: Tomorrow-Sunday.

Television: None.

Online: www.pgatour.com

BASEBALL

LITTLE LEAGUE WORLD SERIES

At South Williamsport, Pa.

Yesterday's results

Consolation

Cumberland, R.I. 8 Rotterdam, Netherlands 7

Elimination Playoffs

Hamamatsu City, Japan 4 **Langley, B.C. 0**

Clinton County, Pa. vs. Warner Robins, Ga.

TENNIS

ATP WORLD TOUR
WINSTON-SALEM OPEN

At WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

Singles

Second Round

John Isner (4), U.S., def. Dudi Sela, Israel, 7-6 (3), 6-2.

Nikolay Davydenko (5), Russia, def. Michael Russell, U.S., 6-2, 6-2.

Juan Monaco (7), Argentina, def. Tobias Kamke, Germany, 7-5, 6-0.

Robin Haase (10), Netherlands, def. James Blake, U.S., 6-4, 6-1.

Steve Darcis, Belgium, def. Dmitry Tursunov (11), Russia, 3-6, 6-1, 6-3.

Kei Nishikori, Japan, def. Pablo Andujar (12), Spain, 7-6 (3), 6-2.

Grigor Dimitrov (14), Bulgaria, def. Donald Young, U.S., 6-4, 2-6, 7-6 (2).

Julien Benneteau, France, def. Igor Kunitsyn (16), Russia, 6-3, 6-1.

WTA NEW HAVEN OPEN

At NEW HAVEN, Conn.

Singles

First Round

Elena Vesnina, Russia, def. Jelena Jankovic, Serbia, 6-2, 2-6, 6-4.

Second Round

Francesca Schiavone (3), Italy, def. Monica Niculescu, Romania, 6-2, 6-1.

Christina McHale, U.S., def. Carla Suarez Navarro, Spain, 6-2, 6-2.

CFL

WEEK NINE

EAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	T	PF	PA	Pt
Winnipeg	7	6	1	0	182	130	12
Montreal	7	5	2	0	222	156	10
Hamilton	7	4	3	0	189	176	8
Toronto	8	2	6	0	184	233	4

WEST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	T	PF	PA	Pt
Calgary	7	5	2	0	194	172	10
Edmonton	8	5	3	0	174	190	10
B.C.	8	2	6	0	203	203	4
Saskatchewan	8	1	7	0	165	253	2

WEEK NINE

Byes: B.C., Edmonton, Saskatchewan, Toronto

Friday's game

Hamilton at Winnipeg, 8 p.m.

Saturday's game

Montreal at Calgary, 4 p.m.

NFL

PRE-SEASON

Monday's result

N.Y. Giants 41, Chicago 13

WEEK THREE

Tomorrow's games

Carolina at Cincinnati, 7 p.m.

Cleveland at Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m.

Washington at Baltimore, 8 p.m.

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HONDA ACCORD SE	✘	✘	✔	✔	✘
CHEVROLET MALIBU LS	✔	✘	✘	✘	✔
TOYOTA CAMRY LE	✔	✘	✔	✔	✘
HYUNDAI SONATA GL	✘	✘	✔	✔	✘

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Spacious coupe

As a four-door wearing a two-door's body, the tester offered up a surprisingly generous back seat, easy entry and exit, a massive trunk, and a great forward view of the road.

No issue with space on board for a four-person road trip, and up front, the driver and passenger could easily forget they aren't simply in a sedan.

Typical coupe-related compromises are largely eliminated, here.

Interior

Most will find the cabin styling modest and plain, an attribute embodied most heavily in the graphics of the infotainment system which are on par with the average gas station ATM machine.

This part of the Accord is in dire need of an update.

Engine

Under the testers' hood, Honda's 3.5-litre SOHC V6 engine dispenses 271 horsepower to the front wheels, thanks in part to the automaker's proven VTEC valve timing system. Among other things, VTEC ramps up engine output and sound effects at higher revs, creating a delightfully peaky power-curve. Honda's proven J35 Z3 powerplant sounds fantastic, loves to work and moves the Accord Coupe along like absolute heck.

A six-speed manual transmission took centre stage within the tester. It offered up a fairly slick shift action despite a longer throw, as well as a light and easygoing clutch.

▶ Though the Accord Coupe doesn't have the world's sportiest shifter, it is easy to bang some gears and get this rocket coupe blasting along so quickly the tires can barely keep up. Torque steer is present though well managed, and in all, it's an entertaining and delightful drivetrain to put through its paces.

Family-car roots shine through in Accord Coupe

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

With Honda greats like the Prelude, NSX, S2000 and CRX all retired to that great big sports-car graveyard in the sky, it's now the Honda Accord V6 Coupe that stands as the brand's ultimate performance offering. This two-door version of Honda's elemental family sedan has recently been updated in the cosmetic department, and now looks more alert, sharp and aggressive than ever.

That's slightly more fitting, perhaps, for a performance flagship riding the same platform as one of the most sensible family rides on the road.

When driving, handling of the Accord is tidy overall, though enthusiast drivers will likely wish for a little less body roll, a little quicker steering and some more aggressive tires. The Accord Coupe isn't a handling monster first and foremost, but it's entertaining to push hard, not to mention comfortable, compliant and relatively quiet during cruising.

End of the day, the Accord Coupe's surprising sensibility, as well as Honda's reputation for reliability, quality and residual value will be big draws here. Shoppers after a muscular sports coupe that's nearly as rational and level-headed as a family sedan won't likely be disappointed.

▶ A side view of the sexily-shaped Accord Coupe.

▶ At hand storage facilities are generous in the cabin. Two large cupholders are fitted, and things are all nicely equipped and set up for day-to-day life.

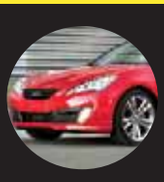
Accord Coupe

What you should know about the 2012 Honda Accord Coupe V6 EX-L:

- **Engine (hp):** 3.5-litre SOHC V6, VTEC, 271 horsepower.
- **Drivetrain:** Front-wheel drive, two-door coupe.
- **Transmission:** Six-speed manual.
- **Observed Average Mileage:** 10.9 l/100 km.
- **Features:** Bluetooth, navigation, heated leather memory seats, sunroof, automatic climate control, automatic lights.
- **What's Hot:** Potent engine, good looks, proven reputation, generous space in cabin and trunk.
- **What's Not:** Could handle more tightly, very dated navigation system.

5 drive

By comparison



Hyundai Genesis Coupe

Shopping? Be sure to check out the Hyundai Genesis 3.8 GT Coupe, too. For a few dollars more than the loaded Accord V6 tester, it offers up a Limited Slip Differential (LSD), Brembo brakes, and more dramatic looks. It also sends more than 30 additional horsepower to the driving enthusiasts' favourite wheels — the rear ones.

JUSTIN PRITCHARD

Scan code for more car reviews and news

An entirely new car experience

That's the tagline for Forza Motorsport 4 But what makes this game different than others?

HANDOUT

The Jaguar XFR is pictured in a screenshot from the Xbox 360's Forza Motorsport 4.

DAVID SINGH
METRO DRIVE EDITOR

The developers behind Forza Motorsport 4 are widening their scope with the release of their new simulation racing game.

If you're a hardcore video gamer, they're aiming to please you. But they also stress that even if you're a novice gamer, yet have a passion for cars, you should really take notice.

"Our goal with Forza 4 is to turn car lovers into gamers, and gamers into car lovers," said Brian Ekberg, community manager for Turn 10 Studios, the developer behind the game. Ekberg was in Toronto last week promoting the game at an Xbox 360 holiday preview event.

Exclusive to the 360, the upcoming instalment of the popular Forza series is set for an Oct. 11 release.

When a new Forza game comes out, it's usually considered a big deal — for Xbox owners, at least — as the series has garnered critical acclaim. Forza Motorsport 3, which was released in 2009, notched Best Driving Game awards from USA Today and IGN, in addition to a Game of the Year nod from The Associated Press.

One of the big advancements in Forza 4 is the inclusion of the all-new Autovista Mode. Described by Ekberg as a "virtual showroom," the mode, which is exclusive to the game, allows players to examine real-life cars just as if they were viewing them at a dealership — a really expensive dealership that is.

The Ferrari 458 Italia, Ferrari California, and McLaren F1 are just a few of the cars to be featured in this mode.

"It's a way to experience cars in a way you've never been able to do so before," said Ekberg.

Paired with the 360's motion-sensing Kinect device, players in Autovista can move their body left or right and the camera will move the same way around the car. With no controller required, they can physically crouch down to check out the wheels, open the doors to look inside the car, or even pop the hood to check out the engine. As well, players can place their hand over certain "points of interest," and it'll bring up information about the cars.

"If you're a car lover, you can come to Autovista Mode and find out about and really appreciate these cars and maybe learn something you didn't already know," said Ekberg. "If you're not a big car fan, we want you to come to this mode, learn about cars and maybe that blossoms into a car passion throughout the rest of your life."

While Autovista Mode is a nice addition to the game, at its heart Forza is a racing game, and Ekberg says it won't disappoint in that regard.

A new lighting engine has been added to enhance the game's silky-smooth graphics, while the Kinect will be integrated into the driving experience by allowing players to move the camera by simply tilting their head.

Familiar voice

Jeremy Clarkson, famous for his role on the TV series Top Gear, has partnered with Turn 10 Studios and will have his voice appear in Forza 4. Clarkson will provide voiceovers in the game's Autovista Mode, sharing his unbiased opinions of the featured cars. As well, he will act as an informational guide when you click on "points of interest" on the cars.

"If we're going to have Jeremy Clarkson in this mode talking about cars, it's gotta feel like Jeremy Clarkson. It has got to be his script, his voiceover, his opinion," said developer Brian Ekberg. "We gave him a list of cars, he wrote the scripts. That's why it feels really authentic."

Getting it right

To create the realistic race tracks featured in the game, Turn 10 photographed, filmed and GPS-ed different locales in the world. Ekberg says that attention was paid to even the smallest details, such as creating blinding snow effects in some tracks, for example.

The developer has also partnered with Pirelli, gaining full access to the company's tire data. The desired goal was to achieve a driving dynamic that closely mirrors real-life cars and their interaction with the roads.

"We take our physics seriously," said Turn 10's Brian Ekberg. "We spent an incredible amount of investment into our physics, because we believe it's important to be as realistic and as true to life as we possibly can."

While many simulation racing games can seem intimidating to new players, Ekberg says his team ensured that Forza 4 is different. The game does have a new simulation steering mode that is designed for "hardcore people," but gamers on the opposite end of the spectrum will be looked after as well.

"Depending on your skill level, you can still have a good time with this game," Ekberg said.

"We have a lot of assists you can turn on — steering assists, braking assists. Even if you don't have a lot of experience playing games, you can come in, get inside this Ferrari 458 and blast around the track and have a great time."

DAVID SINGH

Top Gear

PHOTOS COURTESY OF WHEELBASE

1 If you only use it once, this guide to plus sizing from Wheel Consultants, Inc., is worth every penny since a mistake in wheel-and-tire upgrading can cost you thousands of dollars. The actual math for determining such upgrades is relatively simple, but The Ultimate Wheel and Tire Plus Sizing Guide takes the guesswork out of what will actually fit the car and that, dear readers, is especially tricky when you're pushing the envelope. plussizingguide.com

2 Carbon fibre is light, looks great and is fairly easy to work with if you like to make your own small trim parts. But, it's expensive and is becoming rather commonplace. You can stand out with a new product called Barracuda from BGF Industries. It's a cool-looking fibreglass cloth with aluminum woven into it that works best with a mold that you would need to make. This gives your part a finished look without smoothing and filling since the idea is to allow the beauty of the metal weave to show through. bgf.com

WHEELBASE

HONDA QUALITY DAILY NEWS

Quality Comes First

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HONDA ACCORD: "Highest Ranked Midsize Car in Initial Quality in the U.S."
HONDA ACCORD CROSSTOUR: "Highest Ranked Midsize Crossover/SUV in Initial Quality in the U.S."
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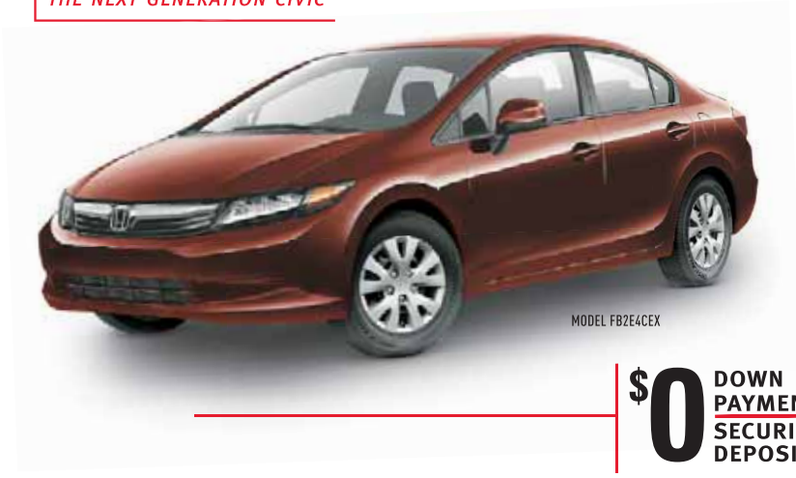

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*Limited time lease offers on a new 2012 Honda Civic LX Sedan with Manual Transmission (Model FB2E4CEX)//2011 Honda Accord SE Sedan (Model CP2E6BE) available through Honda Financial Services Inc., on approved credit. Representative lease example: based on a 2012 Honda Civic LX Sedan with Manual Transmission (Model FB2E4CEX)//2011 Honda Accord SE Sedan (Model CP2E6BE) on a 48//48 month term at 3.99%//0.9% lease APR, the monthly payment is $250//$333 [includes $1,395//$1,550 freight and PDI, EHF tires ($29), EHF filters ($1), A/C tax ($100), and OMVIC fee ($5)] with $0//$0 down payment or equivalent trade-in, $0//$0 security deposit and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $12,000//$15,992. 96,000-kilometre allowance; charge of $0.12/km for excess kilometres. For all offers: license, insurance, registration, PPSA, and other taxes (including HST and tax for fuel conservation, if applicable) are extra. Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price. Offers only valid for Ontario residents at Ontario Honda Dealers. Dealer may sell/lease for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Vehicles and accessories are for illustration purposes only. Offers subject to change without notice. See your Ontario Honda Dealer or visit HondaOntario.com for full details. **Honda Fit, Civic, Insight, Element, Accord, Accord Crosstour and Ridgeline received the lowest number of problems per 100 vehicles among sub-compact cars, compact cars, compact crossover/SUVs, midsize cars, midsize crossover/SUVs and midsize pickups in the proprietary J.D. Power and Associates 2011 Initial Quality Study℠. Study based on responses from 73,790 new-vehicle owners, measuring 234 models and measures opinions after 90 days of ownership. Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of owners surveyed in February-May 2011. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com.

GRAND OPEN-AIR CONCEPT POINTS TO CADILLAC'S FUTURE

AUTO PILOT

MIKE GOETZ
DRIVE
@METRONEWS.CA

Cadillacs of yesteryear were big, imposing expressions of American affluence and confidence. Mobsters, movie stars and other big shots loved them, and used them to extend their A-type personalities.

When something happened during the 1970s. They lost their Mojo and starting hanging out with the wrong crowd — retired Floridians who favoured white golfing slacks and/or dinner theatre.

Cadillac gradually got its 'cred back, mostly through a very successful new exterior design language called Art and Science, which debuted on the original CTS in 2002. Those sharp angles and crisp lines were not universally loved, but they definitely gave Cadillac a decisive and modern personality.

What's next?

Well, we now have some idea, thanks to the unveiling of the Ciel concept, at last weekend's Concours d'Elegance classic car show at the Pebble Beach country club in California.

I wasn't there, which is just as well, because we all know that part of California just sucks (OK, maybe some sour grapes talking).

But we have pictures and they reveal that the Ciel — French for sky and pronounced "C-L" — is evolving Cadillac's Art and Science design toward a more flowing direction. Not quite a river, but definitely less geometry class.

GM/CADILLAC

▶ Behold the Cadillac Ciel — pronounced "C-L," the French translation for sky.

The other intent of Ciel is to announce that Cadillac is anxious to once again have a big halo type vehicle in its portfolio, which it could stack against the range-topping models from rivals BMW and Mercedes-Benz (7 Series and S Class Sedans, respectively).

As such Ciel is big. It sits on a 125-inch wheelbase, and is 12 inches longer than Cadillac's current biggest sedan, the CTS. The "open air grand tourer" body style, complete with suicide doors, is purposefully extravagant, as are the interior accoutrements and conveniences.

The hybrid powerplant is a sign of the times: 3.6-litre V6 with twin turbochargers, and lithium-battery powered electric motor.

"The Ciel is about the romance of the drive," noted Clay Dean, Cadillac's global design director.

"It emulates the great touring cars seen on the greens at Pebble Beach, but with a more modern flair that projects Cadillac's vision for the future."

Unfortunately the totally topless Ciel is a bit too out there for production.

Only the styling cues and some finishes, like the vintage wood treatment and Cabernet paint job will make it into production. (The latter inspired by the "rich translucence of a glass of red wine held up to the sunlight.")

But good on Cadillac for shooting big. Ciel is a nice shot.

Ciel conveniences

- Generous room for two couples.
- Extensive use of Italian olive wood.
- Automatically-retracting "blankets."
- Door storage inspired by premium handbags and their high-quality zippers.
- All seats can be cooled and heated, and feature a drawer containing sun lotion, sun glasses and towels.
- Aromatherapy controlled by rear armrest.

Buick's 'light' electric system provides heavy returns

The eAssist features electric motor, gasoline engine and battery The result is vastly better fuel economy

DRIVING FORCE

JIL McINTOSH
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

Cars that use battery power are becoming more common, but not all of them are meant to run on electricity alone. Some automakers, including GM, are adding electric motors to gasoline engines to provide a conventional level of power with lower fuel consumption.

A new system called eAssist will be available later this year on the 2012 Buick LaCrosse and Regal.

"It will be more than a 25 per cent (fuel economy) improvement over the 2011," says Daryl Wilson, lead development engineer for LaCrosse and Regal eAssist.

The vast majority of the improvement will be from the eAssist, and the rest from aerodynamic improvements and more fuel-efficient tires.

Assists

- There are several types of hybrid systems. "Full" systems can run the car on battery power alone, while "mild" or "light" systems only use the battery to assist the gasoline engine.
- The eAssist's lithium-ion battery contains 32 cells, each about the size of a Red Bull can.
- Start-stop functions, which shut off the gas engine at idle, are common on many non-hybrid cars in Europe and are starting to appear in North America.

Called "light electrification" technology, the system includes a small electric motor-generator attached to the gasoline engine, and a 29-kilogram power pack containing a lithium-ion battery and power inverter.

When you're driving a conventional car and you press the throttle to get more power, such as when passing, the engine works harder and so uses more fuel. With eAssist, the electric motor provides up to 15 horsepower to the engine, which doesn't have to work as hard. Since electric motors make their full power as soon as they start up — as opposed to a gasoline engine, which has to rev up — that extra boost of power is immediately available when you press the throttle.

Like a hybrid, the eAssist system shuts off the gasoline engine at idle, such as when sitting at a red light (the lights, heater and stereo continue to operate) and starts it up again when you're ready to take off.

"Another key feature is that we cut fuel to the engine during deceleration," Wilson says.

"We do this at high speeds in all GM cars, but this one can be done right down to zero, enabled by the ability to smooth torque disturbances with the electric motor as you're getting down to lower speeds."

While eAssist can't run the car on battery alone, it's not as complex or expensive as a full hybrid system.

PHOTOS BY GM

▶ The 2012 Buick LaCrosse.

▶ The eAssist system.

The battery, generally the priciest component, is about one-third the size of a typical hybrid battery, Wilson says, "and the electric motor is also significantly smaller. We're able to pack that where an alternator normally goes, which requires less infrastructure and change to integrate it."

The eAssist system doesn't get plugged into a wall outlet. Instead, the system recharges itself by capturing energy during deceleration and braking, and converting it to electricity that's stored in the battery.

The main thing, Wilson says, is that although the car is electrically assisted, it feels virtually the same as driving a regular Buick.

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Titanium model shown

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7.2L/100km **39MPG** CITY†

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UNDER $21,000

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Delivery Allowance.....$1,000
Total Eligible Price Adjustment..$2,083

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7.1L/100km **40MPG** CITY**

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Delivery Allowance.....$2,500
Total Eligible Price Adjustment..$4,335

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$21,644*
Offer excludes taxes

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9.0L/100km **31MPG** CITY**

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Delivery Allowance.....$3,000
Total Eligible Price Adjustment..$4,891

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Offer excludes taxes

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10.0L/100km **28MPG** CITY**

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More capable than you would know

The M-Class is built tough The only question is how will you use it

WHEELBASE

A handsome exterior will get you plenty of stares when you're cruising main street. But not many buyers will chance messing it up by going off-road.

DREAM CAR

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WHEELBASE MEDIA

There's an old saying that we only use a small portion of our brains at any one time and that if we could tap the potential, who knows what we would be capable of.

The same could be said for the 2012 Mercedes-Benz M-Class. Most high-end sport utility vehicles rarely, if ever, make it very far off the beaten trail. Instead, they're pampered with regular washings and kept snug as a bug in some palatial climate-controlled garage awaiting the next errand run to the galleria, school drop-off zone or evening outing. Their off-road systems are left entirely dormant ... forever.

Automakers that construct similar products know this, yet they still make 'em as if they were about to head into some boulder-strewn nether-region where most people and their machinery fear to drive.

The latest M-Class that's scheduled for a September unveiling proves the point and proves it well. Dimensionally, this Alabama-built luxo-ute and its car-like unibody (frameless) undercarriage is similar to that of the outgoing model. Physically, however, the restyled sheetmetal represents a quantum leap forward, especially the classier hood, fenders and grille plus the cleanly sculpted door and fender body panels that add some much needed definition.

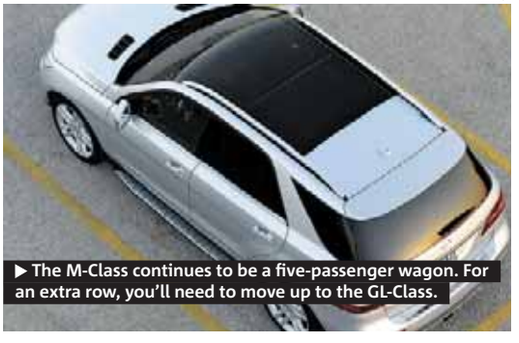
The interior has been similarly addressed. On fully loaded models, the wood trim is tasteful, the stitched leather seat covers are inviting and the satin-nickel garnish is subtly restrained.

Initially there will be only two M-Class editions. The ML350 BlueTEC 4MATIC comes with a 3.0-litre V6 turbo-diesel that resembles the previous engine in terms of displacement only. Its cylinder walls have been coated with a friction-fighter that eliminates the need for cast iron liners.

Mercedes-Benz claims that this and other improvements have led to a three-per-cent improvement in fuel economy.

The Turbo-diesel now generates 240 horsepower and 455 pound-feet of torque, compared to the outgoing 3.0's 210 horses and 400 pound-feet of torque.

WHEELBASE



The M-Class continues to be a five-passenger wagon. For an extra row, you'll need to move up to the GL-Class.

Also available is a 3.5-litre gasoline V6 that's rated at 302 horsepower, a 34-horsepower up-tick from the previous 268 rating.

In this instance, the 3.5 benefits from direct-injection technology whereby fuel is sprayed at extremely high pressure directly into the combustion chambers, instead of into the intake manifold.

The turbo-diesel expected to achieve 11.0 l/100 km in the city and 7.6 on the highway (improved from 11.1/8.0). Meanwhile, the gasoline powerplant is estimated at 13.8/10.0 (previously 14.1/10.2).

Also assisting on the fuel-saving front for both engines is a new seven-speed automatic transmission with a more efficient — less power-sapping — torque converter.

The M-Class's road manners have also been sharpened with "Agility Control" active damping that varies the ride and stability characteristics according to road conditions.

During normal driving, the ride is relatively soft, while for sudden or sharp turns the shock absorbers instantly firm up.

To supplement the permanently engaged 4MOTION all-wheel-drive system, buyers can select an optional "On & Offroad" package with six selectable transmission modes.

Luxury is one thing and features are another, but technology in terms of what's under the skin as well as capability are what set Mercedes-Benz apart from the crowd.

In that respect, even the estimated base price of $63,000 seems fair. It's just too bad that most buyers will never fully realize the capability of the M-Class. The mall, school drop-offs and rush-hour traffic are such rudimentary tasks for a machine that's capable of intense adventure once the pavement disappears.

M-Class

What you should know about the 2012 Mercedes-Benz M-Class:

- **Types:** Four-door, all-wheel-drive mid-size sport utility vehicle.
- **Engine (hp):** 3.0-litre DOHC V6, turbo-diesel (240); 3.5-litre DOHC V6 (302)
- **Transmission:** Seven-speed automatic.
- **Market position:** Luxury utility vehicles remain popular despite higher fuel costs and the M-Class is among the more popular picks. Still, Mercedes-Benz's fuel-economy won't go unnoticed.
- **Mileage:** L/100 km (city/hwy) 11.0/7.6 (3.0).

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Discounts helped dealers: Economist

Used and new car dealers report gains across Canada
Retail sales rise in June, according to StatsCan

Employee pricing and other incentives helped lure Canadians into buying cars in June to help boost the country's retail sales by 0.7 per cent to $37.8 billion, the third straight monthly increase.

However, Statistics Canada said yesterday that excluding sales at vehicle and parts dealers, Canadian retail sales fell 0.1 per cent from May.

Bank of Montreal senior economist Benjamin Reitzes said the gains in auto sales came on the back of significant discounting by dealerships.

"Clearly that's not a sustainable trend, but underlying sales climbed for a second straight month, suggesting Canadian households haven't thrown in the towel yet," he said.

However Reitzes noted that the bank still expected cautious spending to continue amid the negative global economic news and higher household debt levels.

Higher sales and lower prices at new-car dealers accounted for most of the 1.6 per cent increase by volume.

New-car dealers helped power the gains with sales growth of 3.3 per cent, while sales at used-car dealers rose 10.4 per cent in June.

Gains were also reported at automotive parts, accessories and tire stores which gained 1.1 per cent and the "other motor vehicle dealers" category, which gained 1.1 per cent.

Overall, vehicle and parts dealers which gained 3.4 per cent.

Economist David Madani of Capital Economics noted that preliminary auto sales data of July suggests that the third quarter began on a soft note.

"Judging by the renewed financial market volatility and losses in consumer confidence, we might have to wait longer before we see a sustained rebound in the volume of retail sales," Madani wrote in a note to clients.

"The good news is that employment and labour income growth appear to be holding up for now. Rising food prices and high fuel costs, however, will continue to squeeze real disposable incomes and spending this year."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ISTOCK

▶ New-car dealers in Canada had a sales growth of 3.3 per cent in June.

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♦Cash Incentives are available on new 2011 Camry V6/2011 Matrix AWD, XRS/2011 Corolla LE Sport, XRS/2011 Tundra 4x4 CrewMax and are comprised of Customer Incentive and Cash Customer Incentive. $1,500/$1,000/$500/$2,000 Customer Incentive is valid on all Toyota retail delivery when leased, financed or purchased from an Ontario Toyota dealership. $3,500/$2,500/$2,000/$4,000 Cash Customer Incentive is valid on retail delivery for all Toyota retail customers **except** customers who lease or purchase finance through Toyota Financial Services at a special rate of interest offered by Toyota as part of a low rate interest program. Advertised lease and finance rates are special rates. Offer valid to retail customers (excluding fleet sales) when purchased from an Ontario Toyota dealership. Cash Customer Incentive takes place at time of delivery and will apply after taxes have been charged on the full amount of negotiated price and is valid on retail delivery when leased, financed or purchased from an Ontario Toyota dealership. Vehicles receiving cash incentives must be purchased, registered and delivered between August 3 and 31, 2011. ▾Cash Customer Incentive of $3,750/$3,000 is valid on retail delivery of a new 2011 Venza FWD/2011 RAV4 4WD Limited for all Toyota retail customers **except** customers who lease or purchase finance through Toyota Financial Services at a special rate of interest offered by Toyota as part of a low rate interest program. Advertised lease and finance rates are special rates. Offer valid to retail customers (excluding fleet sales) when purchased from an Ontario Toyota dealership. Cash Customer Incentive takes place at time of delivery and will apply after taxes have been charged on the full amount of negotiated price and is valid on retail delivery when leased, financed or purchased from an Ontario Toyota dealership. Vehicles receiving cash customer incentives must be purchased, registered and delivered between August 3 and 31, 2011. ^Toyota Financial Services will match the customer's down payment or trade equity on 2011 Camry, Camry Hybrid and Tacoma models up to $1000, when customer finances/leases through TFS, on approved credit. TFS matched contribution will be applied as non-cash credit to the amount being financed/leased. The customer must provide their own down payment. Offers valid on retail delivery of new unregistered 2011 Camry, Camry Hybrid and Tacoma models when financed/leased, registered and delivered between August 3, 2011 and August 31, 2011. All rights are reserved. Dealer may sell/lease for less. Offers are valid between August 3 and 31, 2011 and are subject to change without notice. Please see your participating Toyota dealer for details.

Yes, that's a snowblower below

We know it's still the dog days of summer and snow in August is very unlikely, but that's the idea Do you really want to be stuck in the cold trying to get you snowblower working this winter? We didn't think so... so read on

ISTOCK

A snowblower is a sight nobody wants to see right now. But, along with the Canadian winters, you know it's coming.

If your snowblower has a two-cycle engine, a tune-up is easy — replace the spark plug and make sure a fresh mix of gasoline/oil is in the tank. Four-cycle engines require a bit more work.

First, change the oil by carefully positioning a catch container and removing the oil drain plug. Be sure to recycle or dispose of the old oil properly. Reinstall the drain plug, and add the specified amount of oil — a single litre of 5W-30 is usually recommended.

Next remove the air filter and either replace it, or clean it and reinstall.

Replacing the spark plug is just as easy. Carefully twist off the spark plug wire, then use a purpose-built spark-plug socket and a ratchet wrench to remove the old plug.

Even after just 15-20 hours of use, the spark plug may be fouled. Replace it with the equivalent spark plug number, and don't scrimp on quality.

Autolite Xtreme Start spark plugs, for example, can provide quicker consistent starts compared to the average plug.

That's important when you're standing out in the snow. Install and tighten the spark plug to spec — do not over-tighten it.

Fill up the tank with regular unleaded gasoline plus a stabilizer additive to help reduce moisture in the system.

Now check over all your work, and then crank it up. You're ready for the first snowfall — even though it is a few months away.

NEWS CANADA

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FORD

▶ The new four-way adjustable head restraint on the Ford Explorer is pictured.

Wiping out whiplash with good seat design

‘Simpler is better’ is Ford’s approach to head restraint system

JIL MCINTOSH
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

Whiplash is a painful injury that’s common in rear-end collisions.

It occurs when the body jerks forward and the head snaps back and forth, injuring the neck, and can range from mild discomfort to long-term pain.

Many automakers, including Ford, have introduced improved head restraints and seat designs that keep the head and spine aligned during a collision, helping to prevent the snapping motion that can cause whiplash.

“The seat is a total system,” says Dan Ferretti, Ford’s global technical leader for seat engineering.

“If you have good seat design using the latest technology, you can manage that energy of the seat and keep good alignment between the neck, the spine and the lower torso.”

There are different types of head restraint systems.

Active systems push the head restraints forward in a crash to cradle the head, using either a mechanical release that’s triggered when the occupant is pushed into the seat by the crash force, or a pyrotechnic device similar to that used to deploy airbags.

Passive systems, which Ford uses on its entire line of vehicles in North America, involve a seat and head restraint design that manages the energy during a collision.

It’s equally effective as an active system, Ferretti says, but doesn’t require the same attention when the vehicle is being repaired.

“A pyrotechnic usually has to be replaced (after a collision), and many of the mechanical-based systems also need to be replaced and reset,” Ferretti says.

“A passive system does not need any kind of typical replacement. ‘Simpler is better’ is our approach to it.”

Ford has introduced a new four-way head restraint on its Explorer which, in addition to moving up and down, can also be positioned forward and backwards using a manually-operated ratcheting system, which allows the occupant to select from 12 positions.

The new restraints offer occupants the ability to find a comfortable driving position while still protecting them in a crash.

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This used Pontiac can get you fly like a G6

SECOND GEAR

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

Replacing the popular Grand Am, Pontiac's 2005 G6 hit the market in 2004 with the promise of better quality, performance, looks and dynamics than its predecessor.

By doing away with the Grand Am nameplate, the now-extinct American brand was clearly aiming for a new beginning in the G6's segment — and had their eyes on taking a piece of the pie from the Japanese competition.

Coupe, sedan and convertible models were available, as were numerous trim levels and options packages to fit a variety of needs.

2006 to 2011 Pontiac G6

Engine

Look for G6 with a 3.5-L V6 with 200 horsepower, a 2.4-L four-cylinder with 169 horsepower, and two up-level V6 engines displacing 3.6 and 3.9-litres and generating 242 or 240 horsepower.

What owners like

Owners taking to the Internet to share experiences typically rave about styling, overall value, ride quality, and decent fuel mileage with any of the "smaller" engines. Comments like "fun to drive," "sharp looking," and "sporty" are common.

What owners dislike

Complaints tend to centre around lower-than-expected cabin build quality and materials selection, some noises as the G6 ages, and a rattly sunroof. Some wish for better gas mileage from the larger engines.

Common issues

Well-documented problems with the G6's electric power steering may result in a loss of power steering assist — meaning the steering could become stiff and feel "locked up" at speed.

This safety issue was addressed by a service bulletin, and any GM mechanic should be able to check and replace the troublesome parts.

A check of the vehicle's suspension and front-end is also advised.

Verdict

Opt for a newer, used G6, and you'll likely find an affordable, solid and sporty driving companion.

Expect above-average sportiness and performance, and below-average resale value.

Special Rate
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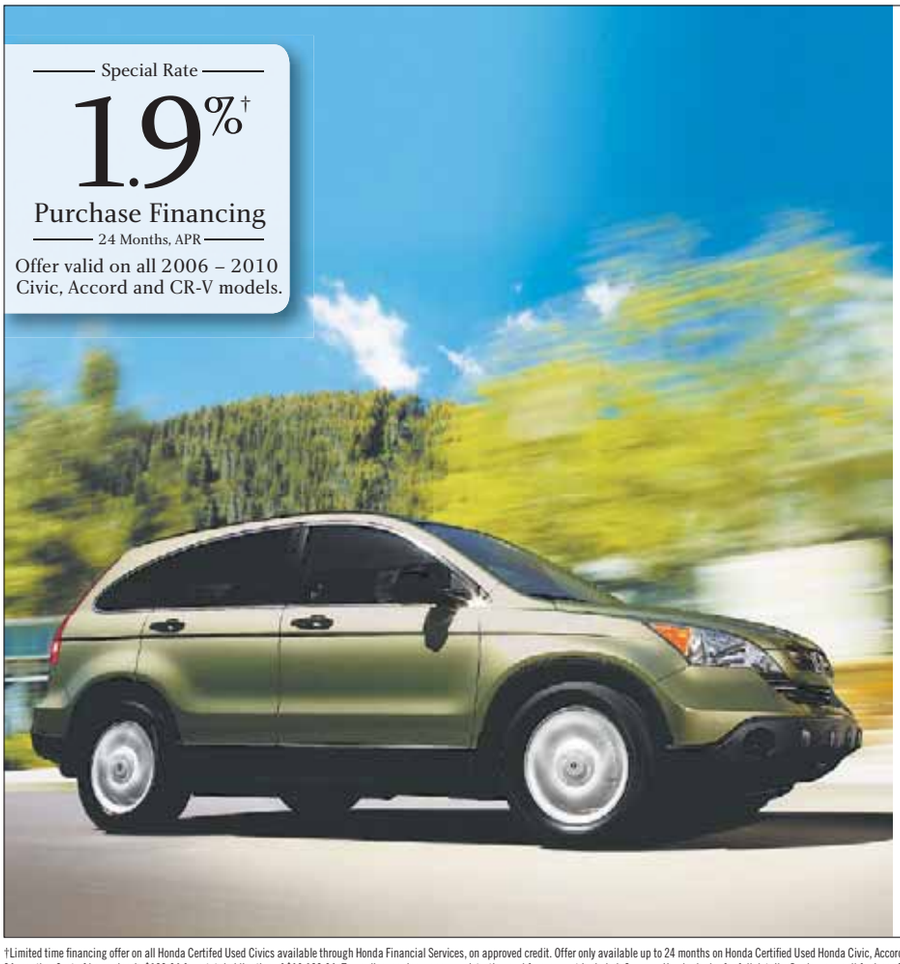

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†Limited time financing offer on all Honda Certifed Used Civics available through Honda Financial Services, on approved credit. Offer only available up to 24 months on Honda Certified Used Honda Civic, Accord and CR-V models (2006–2010 model years). Finance example based on 2008 Honda Civic model: $10,000 at 1.9% per annum equals $424.96 per month for 24 months. Cost of borrowing is $199.04 for a total obligation of $10,199.04. Taxes, license, insurance, registration and fees are not included. See your Honda dealer for full details. Dealer may sell for less. Offer expires August 31, 2011.

Say hello to the next-gen Camry

Toyota debuts newest version of top-selling Camry amid tough competition Should hit dealerships soon

DAVID SINGH
@METRONEWS.CA

Toyota unveiled its first redesign of the Camry in five years yesterday.

Set to go onsale this October, the 2012 Camry will be lower-priced than last year's model, according to published reports.

Reports say the new model features a 2.5-litre, four-cylinder engine that produces 178 horsepower, which is a five per cent increase from the current model. The Camry's fuel efficiency will also improve.

Toyota had previously released few details about the new car, which was shown at simultaneous events in California, Michigan and at the Georgetown, Ky., plant where the Camry is made. The Camry will carry an entertainment system called Entune, which lets drivers connect to mobile applications such as Pandora.

Analysts say competition from rivals has never been stronger. The Hyundai Sonata has been praised for its sharp styling, fuel economy and price tag — it starts at $500 less than the 2011 Camry — while General Motors will soon release a redesigned Chevrolet Malibu. The Nissan Altima, Ford Fusion and Honda Accord are also closing in on Camry's lead.

"The Camry is not a slam-dunk by itself anymore," said Jesse Toprak, vice-president of industry trends and insights for car pricing site TrueCar.com.

Through July of this year, Toyota has sold 174,485 Camrys, down eight per cent from the same period in 2010. That's still 20,000 more than its closest rival, the Nissan Altima, even with supply shortages this spring and summer caused by the earthquake in Japan.

PAUL SANCYA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ The 2012 Toyota Camry is unveiled during a news conference in Dearborn, Mich., yesterday.

Toyota introduced the Camry in the U.S. in 1983 to compete with the Honda Accord. It quickly became a big seller because of its reputation for reliability and good gas mileage. The Camry outsold the Ford Taurus in 1997. It has been the bestselling car in America ever since, except for 2001, when it was outsold by the Accord. Even the safety recalls of 2010 — in which Toyota recalled hundreds of thousands of Camrys because of sticky accelerator pedals and floor mats — didn't knock it down from No. 1. But the car's sales fell eight per cent that year, while sales of the Hyundai Sonata rose 64 per cent.

Toprak said the new Camry will satisfy current owners who want to trade in their cars. But it could have a tough time attracting new customers. Toprak said the Camry and the Accord have lost sales to competitors in part because they stuck with bland styling while other automakers took chances with their designs.

"They are safe vehicles that have nothing fundamentally wrong with them, but they don't promote excitement," he said.

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*Variable rate financing for 84 months on 2011 Chevrolet Equinox LS, R7A O.A.C. by TD Bank. Bi-weekly payment and variable rate shown based on current TD Bank prime rate and is subject to fluctuation; actual payment amounts will vary with rate fluctuations. Example: $10,000 at 3% for 84 months, the monthly payment is $132.13. Cost of borrowing is $1,098.92, total obligation is $11,098.92. Down payment and/or trade may be required. Monthly/Bi-weekly payments and cost of borrowing will also vary depending on amount borrowed and down payment/trade. Monthly/Bi-weekly payments based on a purchase price of $25,471 with $0 down payment. Freight & PDI ($1,450), registration, air and tire levies and OMVIC fees included. Insurance, licence, PPSA, dealer fees and applicable taxes not included. Offers apply to 2011 new in dealer stock vehicles only. Dealer may sell for less. Offers may change without notice, may not be combined with other offers, may end without notice and may vary by dealer. Offers apply to qualified retail customers in the Ontario Chevrolet Dealer Advertising Association area only (including Ottawa). Dealers may be required to order vehicle. Limited time offers. GMCL may modify, extend or cancel this program at any time without notice. Conditions and limitations apply. See dealer for details. ††2011 Chevrolet Equinox LTZ, MSRP with freight, PDI & levies $35,244. Dealers are free to set individual prices.

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GS model shown

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GT model shown

2012 Mazda 5 GS

Lease from $299* per month at 1.9% for 48 months with **$0 down**

GT model shown

2011 Mazda CX7 GX

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GT model shown

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* †0% APR Purchase Financing is available on all new 2011 Mazda vehicles. 84-month term available on 2011 MX-5, RX-8 and Tributeonly. Other terms vary by model. Gas card promotion is available to one person per eligible household and will be mailed out within 6-8 weeks. To register, participants must visit Mazda.ca & complete the Build and Price process. At the end of process, they have to complete the promotion registration form, when they will receive an email from Mazda Canada containing a unique voucher code which has to be handed over to the dealership sales staff before going for a test drive. Conditions apply – visit Mazda.ca for more details. ‡Dealer Signing Bonuses are available on retail purchase/finance/lease of all new, in-stock 2011 Mazda models from August 16th – 31st, 2011. Bonus amounts vary by model. Maximum $2,000 Dealer Signing Bonus available on 2011 MX-5, RX-8 and CX-9 models. $500/$500/$1,000/$1,000/$1,000/$2,000 Dealer Signing Bonus applies to new 2011 Mazda2/2011 Mazda3/2011 Mazda6/2011 Tribute/2011 CX-7/2011 CX-9 models. Visit mazda.ca or see your dealer for complete details. Offers available on retail leases of new 2011 Mazda 2 GX (B5XB51AA00)/2011 Mazda3 GX (D4XS51AA00)/2012 Mazda 5 GS (E6SD62AA00)/ 2011 Mazda CX7 GX FWD(PVXY81AA00) with a lease APR of 2.5%/1.9%/1.9%/1.9% and monthly payments of $179/$199/$299/$339 for 60/48/48/48 months, the total lease obligation is $10,796/$9,622.61/$14,422.77/$18,337.74, includingdown payment of $0/$0/$0/$1,995. Lease payments include freight and P.D.E. of $1,495/$1,495/$1,695/$1695. 20,000 km per year mileage allowance applies; if exceeded, additional 8¢ per km applies. 24,000 km leases also available. PPSA and taxes are extra. Offered leasing available to retail customers only. Leasing may not be available for all models. Lease offers vary by region and trim level/model. See mazda.ca or your dealer for lease available vehicles. †0% APR Purchase Financing is available on new 2011 Mazda2/2011 Mazda 3/2012 Mazda 5/2011 Mazda CX7 models. 0% Purchase financing is available for up to 60 months/48/60 months for 2011 Mazda 2, 2011 Mazda 3/2012 Mazda 5/2011 Mazda CX7. Example: using a financed amount of $20,000, the cost of borrowing for a 60/48 month term is $0, monthly payment is $333.33/$416.67, total finance obligation is $20,000. Terms vary by model, see your dealer for full details. PPSA, license, insurance, taxes, down payment and other dealer charges are extra and may be required at the time of purchase. Dealer may sell/lease for less. Dealer order or trade may be necessary on certain vehicles. Lease and Finance on approved credit for qualified customers only. Offers valid August 16 – 31, 2011 while supplies last. Prices subject to change without notice. Visit mazda.ca or see Yorkdale Dufferin Mazda for complete details.

A crude tea party

The gloves are on as we, quite literally, mix it up with the pros to find out why all oil is not the same

MALCOLM GUNN
WHEELBASE MEDIA
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

So, here I am, wearing an ill-fitting lab coat and looking like a chemistry class whiz.

Where I am is at Valvoline's headquarters getting the 411 on engine oil, that precious substance that keeps the world's internal-combustion engines functioning.

As part of the learning process, Valvoline's chemists invited the Wheelbase staff to try its hand at mixing small batches of engine oil with a variety of colourful ingredients. In short order, it becomes obvious just how complicated this task really is, which is the point of the exercise.

Motor oil, we quickly learn, is a highly technical concoction that keeps our vehicles running in top form. We're also told that engine oil has had to evolve to match the increasing demands placed on engines, as well as the change in their physical makeup.

In short, the oil has to be better today because today's engines need it to be better.

We also learn a bit about the ingredients that make up the slippery stuff.

Conventional motor oil is comprised of about 80 per cent base stock that virtually every refinery produces from crude oil. The remaining 20 per cent is additives developed by individual oil companies, such as Valvoline, according to the company's own unique formulas, and blended for specific uses.

YEAR END CLEARENCE

2011 Scion tC

The sports coupe. The 2011 Scion tC brings tight styling and upscale features – including a Panorama Power Moonroof to the sport compact scene. It features a highly tunable powerstrain combined with athletic handling brought together in one affordable package. Like every Scion, the 2011 tC comes with a well-equipped mono spec along with a wide array of styling and performance upgrades to truly make it your own.

$22,375 + HST & LICENSING

2011 Scion xB

Different by design, the 2011 Scion xB stands squarely apart as the original iconic urban utility vehicle. The 2011 xB sets you up with tons of standard features – llike the wrap-around projector headlams and USB integration for your music - along with standard Scion cues, like ample power, room for cargo or comrades, a Club-worthy audio system and a roster of dealer-installed accessories that turn the 2011 Scion xB into a blank canvas for personalization.

$19,795 + HST & LICENSING

2011 Scion xD

Live large - in a small space. that's just one of the contradictions that defy convention and define the 2011 Scion xD. Call it the x-factor. A menacing look melded into a 128hp, 1.8L engine strikes fear into the hearts of our sub-compact competition. Money-in-your-pocket fuel economy coupled with pressed-to-the-seat-performance. An extensive list of standard features – including a dedicated iPod port that provides power and stereo head unit control - at an extremely affordable price. And, of course, the ability to accessorize to the max.

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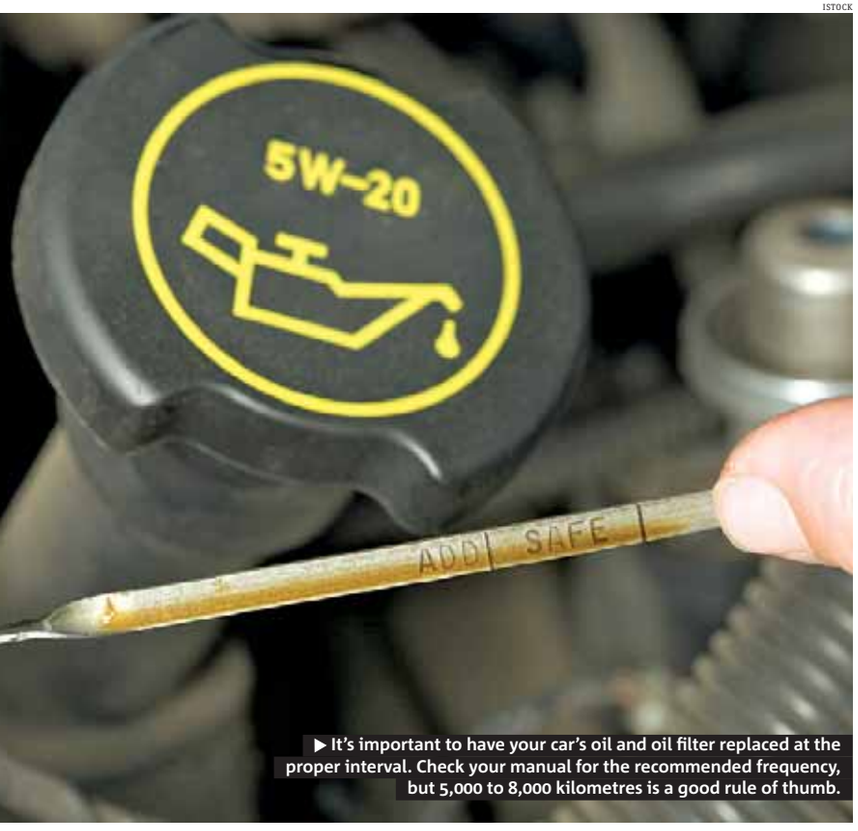
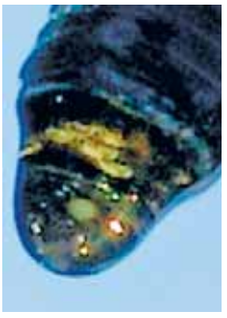


▶ It's important to have your car's oil and oil filter replaced at the proper interval. Check your manual for the recommended frequency, but 5,000 to 8,000 kilometres is a good rule of thumb.

Synthetic



What is synthetic engine oil?

- The term "synthetic oil" might have you believe that it is somehow artificial and made from something other than conventional oil.
- However, the raw material that's used as the basis for synthetic oil is usually derived from a variety of sources, such as crude oil, natural gas and vegetable or animal by-products.
- They have been blended and highly refined so that they are in a relatively pure state (hence their added cost).
- The primary advantages to synthetic oil is that its provides better performance in low-temperature conditions (including cold-weather starts where much engine wear occurs) and works more efficiently when combined with specific oil additives.

Additives include detergents, wear and corrosion inhibitors, anti-oxidants plus other chemicals that help keep moving parts clean and functioning at cooler temperatures.

They also reduce friction, stop dirt and foreign deposits from coming into contact with metal surfaces, seal gaps between the piston rings and cylinder walls and prevent water and acids (a by-product of combustion) from causing engine damage.

According to Valvoline, additives only function for a specific time (depending on how hard they are expected to work) before they are depleted and engine wear and tear begins. That's why it's important to have the oil and oil filter replaced at the proper interval. The owner's manual will indicate the recommended frequency, but 5,000 to 8,000 kilometres is a good rule of thumb. The lower number is limit for frequent stop-and-go driving, towing, operating a vehicle in dusty and/or sandy conditions, or driving during extreme hot or cold temperatures. Talk to most finicky drivers and they'll usually tell you they religiously stick to the 5,000-kilometre-limit between changes.

Engine oil is graded according to its viscosity, or its ability to flow. Most passenger-car engines are rated for using multi-grade oil, which means they'll work well in both hot and cold conditions.

Again, your owner's manual or service technician can advise as to which grade of motor oil is correct for your vehicle.

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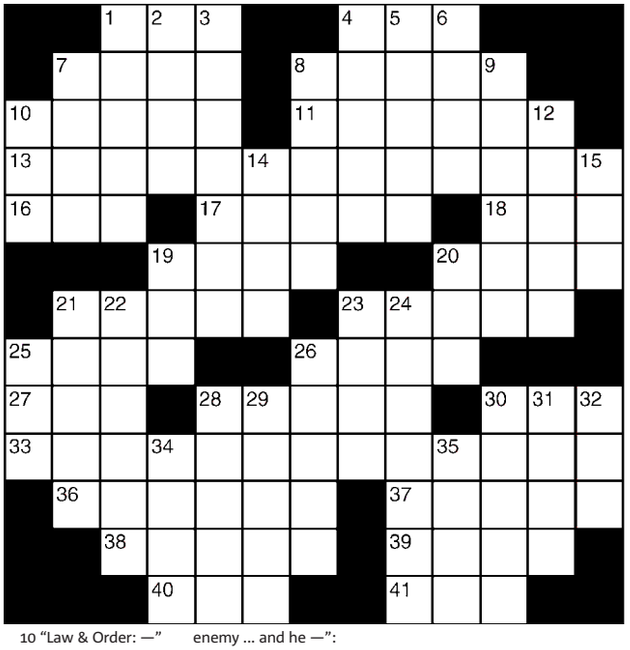

Across

1 Chocolate dog, for short
4 Suntan lotion abbr.
7 Earth
8 Wall art
10 Rock
11 Egyptian underworld god
13 "Monopoly" property
16 High points
17 Glover or DeVito
18 Yea canceler
19 His and —
20 "— Only Just Begun"
21 Battle reminders
23 Hotel accommodation
25 Laugh-a-minute
26 King —
27 Blunder
28 Biscotti flavoring
30 Korean automaker
33 Jeff Dunham or Terry Fator
36 Impulse carrier
37 Excessive
38 Speedy horses
39 Tosses in
40 "Science Guy" Bill
41 Actress Myrna

Down

1 Crazy birds
2 "— She Sweet?"
3 Bartender's need
4 Soap star Lucci
5 — to (in on)
6 Bus rider's pay
7 Dance lesson
8 Early periods
9 Common finch
10 "Law & Order: —"
12 Debonair
14 Galley lineup
15 22-Down's location
19 Chapeau
20 Peruke
21 Temptress
22 Pupil's coat
23 Mediocre
24 Not the same
25 Gun the engine
26 Potters' ovens
28 Orderly grouping
29 Mythical weeper
30 Small child (Var.)
31 "We have met the enemy ... and he —": Pogo
32 Devoured
34 Swerve
35 Loosen

▶ Yesterday's answer

H	A	R	D	■	P	O	P	■	S	A	N	G
U	S	S	R	■	A	R	E	■	O	H	I	O
L	A	V	E	■	W	A	R	D	R	O	B	E
A	P	P	A	R	E	L	■	A	B	Y	S	S
■	■	■	M	U	D	■	W	Y	E	■	■	■
H	A	S	T	E	■	C	O	S	T	U	M	E
E	L	K	■	■	A	U	K	■	■	S	E	A
R	A	I	M	E	N	T	■	E	V	E	N	T
■	■	■	U	S	N	■	B	A	A	■	■	■
S	C	O	T	T	■	G	A	R	M	E	N	T
C	L	O	T	H	I	N	G	■	P	L	E	A
O	U	Z	O	■	T	A	G	■	E	B	O	N
T	E	E	N	■	S	T	Y	■	D	A	N	K

Sudoku

			2				1	6
	6		1				8	
		8			5	7		
8				9	2			
	2	3				8	5	
			5	8				7
		5	3			2		
	7				6		9	
4	1				7			

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

5	3	7	1	9	8	6	2	4
9	1	2	3	4	6	5	8	7
4	8	6	2	5	7	1	9	3
1	2	5	9	6	3	7	4	8
7	9	8	4	2	5	3	1	6
3	6	4	7	8	1	9	5	2
6	4	9	5	3	2	8	7	1
8	5	1	6	7	4	2	3	9
2	7	3	8	1	9	4	6	5

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pebbles. Baby. I just want you to know that I love everything about you. From the girl I first met to the woman you're becoming. You make me so happy. I can't remember ever having so much fun doin nothing. I can't fall asleep unless you're right with your head on my chest. Thank you for reminding me what love is. **BAM BAM**

To J B, Oh baby your lips look so tender and it look so true , believe me when i tell you i cannot wait for my dream to come true. i love u **H D**

c, To hold you tight, to kiss you and to dance with you forever is all I dream of. OMG how much I miss that smile n those big blue eyes. You are my soul mate and my heartbeat. I am lonely without you. I miss you so much n can't live without you. LOVE YOU crazy! **S**

Today 29°/18° Variable
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Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 Those who think you lack imagination will be forced to think again.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 There may be something you're desperate to say. If you're smart, you will hold off for a few more days.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 As usual, you are ahead of your time. As usual others will struggle to keep up. Roll with it.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 Your latest idea may be brilliant but how are you going to make it pay? Give it some thought today.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 No matter how set in your ways you may be, you will do something out of character today.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 Your ego is a bit fragile. That will change dramatically in 48 hours.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 You know what you want to do but you don't know if you have what it takes to make a success of it. You won't know 'till you try.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 You need to get out of the mental rut you've somehow become stuck in.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Keep one eye on the news today because a new idea could inspire you to change your life.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 You can do no wrong at the moment, so feel free to take risks.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 Because you're so quick to spot new trends, so look for ways to make your insight pay off.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. Your heightened sense of awareness will help you see patterns and meanings **SALLY BROMPTON**

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CITY: 10.6L/100KM (27 MPG)

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KIA

5 Year Warranty*

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***5-year/100,000 km worry-free comprehensive warranty**
*5-year/100,000 km powertrain warranty
*5-year/100,000 km extra care roadside assistance
*no deductible charge

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Kia's new way to save with the best of financing and leasing. Visit kia.ca today to see how you can save with Flex Choice.

madd
Saving Lives, Supporting Victims

Kia's new Customer Friendly Pricing includes delivery and destination fees and all mandatory government levies.
Prices do not include dealer administration fees ($399 to $699), licensing, PPSA or applicable taxes.

CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED• | $500 Grad Rebate | KIA mobility PROGRAM

Offer(s) available on all new 2011 models through participating dealers to qualified customers who take delivery by August 31, 2011. Dealers may sell for less. Some conditions apply. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Offers are subject to change without notice. See dealer for complete details. Vehicle images shown may include optional accessories and upgrades. All offers exclude licensing, registration, insurance, PPSA, applicable taxes and variable dealer administration fees (up to $699). □Model shown includes optional accessories and may not appear exactly as shown. **0% purchase financing available on all 2011 models on approved credit (OAC). Term varies by model and trim. Financing example based on 2011 Kia Soul 2.0L 2u MT (SO551B) with a selling price of $20,379, financed at 0% APR for 48 months. Monthly payments equal $425 with a down payment/equivalent trade of $0. Cost of borrowing is $0, for a total obligation of $20,379. Delivery and destination fees ($1,650), other fees ($34), OMVIC fee, Environmental Fee and A/C tax (where applicable) are included. License, insurance, applicable taxes, variable dealer administration fees (up to $699), PPSA and registration fees are extra. Financing example excludes $1,000 loan credit. Retailer may sell for less. See dealer for full details. •"Don't Pay For 90 Days" on select models (90-day payment deferral) applies to purchase financing offers on all models on approved credit (OAC) (2011 Sportage/Sorento/Borrego/Sedona excluded). No interest will accrue during the first 60 days of the finance contract. After this period, interest starts to accrue and the purchaser will repay the principal interest monthly over the term of the contract. ▼Bi-weekly finance payment for 2011 Rondo EX 7-SEAT (RN753B) is $139 and is based on an MSRP of $25,579 with an APR of 1.49% for 60 months, amortized over an 84-month period. Remaining balance of $7,138 plus applicable taxes due at end of 60-month period. Loan credit of $1,500, delivery and destination fees of $1,650, other fees of $34, OMVIC fee, Environmental Fee and A/C tax ($100, if applicable) are included. License, insurance, applicable taxes, variable dealer administration fees of up to $699, PPSA and registration fees are extra. Retailer may sell for less. See dealer for full details. ‡Loan credit (cash savings) for 2011 Kia Sorento LX AT (SR540B)/2011 Kia Soul 2.0L 2u MT (SO551B) is $1,250/$1,000, and is available on purchase financing only on approved credit (OAC). Loan credit varies by model and trim. ‹Cash purchase price for 2011 Kia Sportage LX AT (SP758B) is $23,079 and includes a cash credit of $3,000, based on an MSRP of $26,079. Delivery and destination fees of $1,650, other fees of $34, OMVIC fee, Environmental Fee and A/C tax ($100, where applicable) are included. License, insurance, applicable taxes, PPSA, dealer administration fees of up to $699 and registration fees are extra. Retailer may sell for less. See dealer for full details. Available at participating dealers. ^Highway/city fuel consumption of these vehicles may vary. These estimates are based on the Government of Canada's approved criteria and testing methods. Refer to the Government of Canada publication *EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide*. ^2011 Kia Sportage/2011 Kia Sorento/2011 Kia Soul awarded the Top Safety Pick by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. The award is applicable to all 2011 Sportage models manufactured after March 2010. Visit www.iihs.org for full details. △2011 Kia Sportage awarded Car of the Year by *Motoring 2011* for Best SUV/CUV (under $40,000) and overall Car of the Year. Visit www.motoringtv.com for full details. °The Bluetooth® word mark and logo are registered trademarks and are owned by Bluetooth SIG, Inc. Some conditions apply to the $500 Grad Rebate Program and $750 Kia Mobility Program. See dealer for details. Information in this advertisement is believed to be accurate at the time of print. For more information on our 5-year warranty coverage, visit kia.ca or call us at 1-877-542-2886. Kia Canada is the official automotive sponsor of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD Canada). KIA is a trademark of Kia Motors Corporation.